SUNDAY
May 31, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
30 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

www.thehindu.com
Vol. 57 • No. 22
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49960

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WORLD CUP FEVER

When the ball rolls in Kerala

Hoarding wars and midnight screenings as fans in the State embrace the quadrennial event

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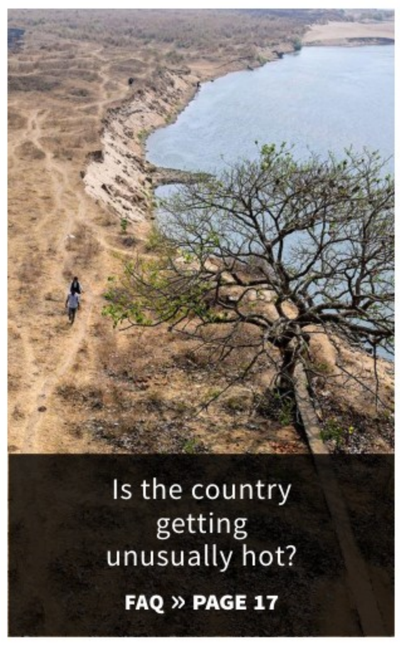

Is the country getting unusually hot?

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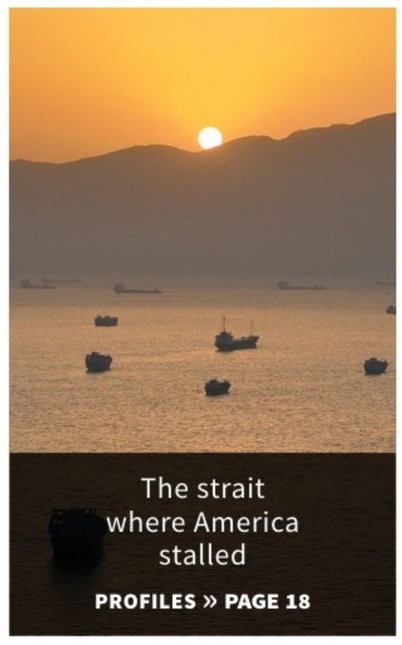

The strait where America stalled

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Royal Challengers and Titans battle for IPL crown

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NEARBY

Foundation stone-laying for KPS cancelled

BENGALURU
The Department of School Education and Literacy has cancelled the foundation stone-laying ceremony for Karnataka Public Schools that outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was supposed to preside over in Shivamogga.
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Civil society groups protest against SIR

BENGALURU
Civil society groups protested against the SIR exercise, set to roll out in Karnataka starting June 20. » PAGE 2

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Shivakumar to take oath as Chief Minister on June 3

Governor invites current Deputy Chief Minister to take oath after he was unanimously elected leader of the CLP; speculation remains over Cabinet and whether there will be new Deputy CMs

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar will take oath as the Chief Minister at the Lok Bhavan on Wednesday after being unanimously elected the leader of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) on Saturday.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, in a communique to Mr. Shivakumar, has invited him to take the oath at 4.05 p.m. on Wednesday. It is expected to be a simple event at the Glass House on the Governor's residential premises. The event is expected to be attended by the central leadership of the party.

The invitation came after a delegation of Congress leaders, including Mr. Shivakumar and caretaker Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, met the Governor to hand over the CLP resolution on the election of a new leader. The letter said 135 Congress legislators, two associate members, and one Raitha Sangha member had unanimously elected Mr. Shivakumar as the CLP leader. Earlier in the day, Mr. Shivakumar had met the Governor informally to check his availability for the dates chosen for swearing in.

New role: Karnataka CM-designate D.K. Shivakumar with supporters after the CLP meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

With Cabinet formation still under discussion, speculation continues over whether a full Cabinet will be sworn in and whether there will be deputy Chief Ministers.

"The Congress high command proposed the name of Mr. Shivakumar for the post of CLP, and he was unanimously elected. The power transition took place under the guidance of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and leader Sonia Gandhi," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal told presspersons. "With the support of Mr. Siddaramaiah and under the leadership of Mr. Shivakumar, the Congress will return to power in 2028," he said.

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'ROCK' OF CONGRESS
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Tech glitch delays CUET-UG; NTA to hold retest for 3,765

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The first shift of the Common University Entrance Test 2026 for undergraduate admissions (CUET-UG) was delayed at some centres on Saturday owing to a technical glitch, causing stress to thousands of students and their parents. Over 3,700 candidates, who had completed biometric registration, left without taking the test across multiple centres.

Testing times: Students arrive at an examination centre at Sarita Vihar in New Delhi to appear for CUET-UG 2026 on Saturday. ANI

NTA version

"Earlier today, some centres faced a technical glitch that delayed the start of Shift 1. We know this was stressful, and we are sorry for the anxiety it caused. The technical service provider, TCS iON [a unit of Tata Consultancy Services], has been asked to conduct a root-cause analysis and submit its report immediately," said the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Allegations that the shift was delayed three to four hours surfaced on the social media on Saturday and videos of students protesting against the organisers were also circulated.

Rescheduling

The NTA said it would reschedule the examination as a one-time measure for the 3,765 candidates who chose to leave before the exam could restart, adding that new date and details will be announced separately.

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Modi destroying India's education system: Rahul

NEW DELHI
Following reports of delays by the National Testing Agency in holding the CUET-UG at some centres due to technical glitches on Saturday, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "destroying" India's education system. » PAGE 13

Best foot forward

Outgoing Agniveer cadets take part in the Passing Out Parade for the year 2026, at MEG and Centre, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Mob attacks Abhishek Banerjee in West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A mob chased and attacked Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday at Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, during his visit to the residence of a party worker allegedly killed in the recent post-poll violence. He called it a "BJP-sponsored attack".

Eggs, shoes hurled

Eggs and shoes were hurled at the Trinamool leader as security personnel tried to shield him from the mob, which was raising *'chor chor (* thief thief)' slogans.

Mr. Banerjee had to put on a helmet, but the crowd kept chasing him, raising slogans and throwing projectiles at him all the way till the residence of the deceased party worker.

Mr. Banerjee was later treated at two hospitals in Kolkata, but was not admitted.

Mamata visits nephew

Trinamool chairperson Mamata Banerjee visited her nephew at a hospital. Earlier, she shared a video of the attack and wrote, "RULERS BECAME KILLERS- shame on you BJP".

The Congress and the Samajwadi Party condemned the attack.

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Four in 10 cancer cases in Karnataka linked to tobacco use, shows Kidwai data

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Nearly four out of every 10 cancer cases reported in Karnataka are linked to tobacco use, according to estimates from the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology ahead of World No Tobacco Day on Sunday.

According to data, Karnataka's estimated incidence of new cancer cases in 2025 stood at 88,813, of which 35,839 cases, or 40.4%, are projected to be tobacco-related. Tobacco use is a contributor to 10,004 of the State's estimated 22,583 cancer deaths in 2025, accounting for 44.3% of all cancer mortality.

The burden is significantly higher among men. Of the 39,371 estimated new cancer cases in 2025 among men in Karnataka, 20,652 cases (52.5%) are linked to tobacco use. Among women, 15,187 of the estimated 49,442 cancer cases (30.7%) are tobacco-related.

Hospital-based cancer registry data from Kidwai underscores the scale of the problem. Of the 13,391 cancer cases treated at the institute in 2025, 6,740 cases (50.3%) were linked to tobacco. Among male patients, nearly six in 10 cancers (59.4%) were tobacco-related, while the corresponding figure among women was 42.3%.

Naveen T., Kidwai director (additional charge), told *The Hindu* that tobacco continues to be one of the leading preventable causes of death.

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Tobacco related cancers in State (2025)

	Incidence	Mortality
	All cancers/Tobacco related cancers	All cancers/Tobacco related cancers
Karnataka	**88,813;** 35,839 (40.4%)	**22,583;** 10,004 (44.3%)
Male	**39,371;** 20,652 (52.5%)	**11,169;** 5,814 (52.0%)
Female	**49,442;** 15,187 (30.7%)	**11,414;** 4,230 (37.05%)
Bengaluru	**15,693;** 6,368 (40.6%)	**3,981;** 1775 (44.6%)
Male	**7,119;** 3,734 (52.5%)	**2,001;** 1041 (52.0%)
Female	**8,574;** 2,634 (30.7%)	**1,980;** 734 (37.0%)

Source: Population Based Cancer Registry maintained at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology

Vital source: A resident collects water from a branch of the Indira Gandhi Canal at Ramgarh village in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district.

Drawing life: A farmer stands beside a borewell on his farm near the canal, which is crucial for irrigation in the region.

Branches in the sun: Trees, unique to Rajasthan, seen along the banks of the canal at Mohangarh in Jaisalmer district.

Thirst quenched: A camel herder offers water to his animals at Sam Desert, on the outskirts of Jaisalmer.

Bringing water to a scorching desert

Vijay Soneji
soneji.v@thehindu.co.in

The Indira Gandhi Canal serves as a critical water supply resource for Jaisalmer and thousands of remote desert villages; yet scarcity persists, with many still relying on ancestral wells as concerns over groundwater depletion and canal maintenance remain

The Indira Gandhi Canal, which flows through a small stretch of northwestern Haryana before traversing Rajasthan and ending in the Thar Desert near Gadra Road in Jaisalmer district, is India's longest canal, at 837 kilometres. It provides critical water supply to Jaisalmer and thousands of remote desert villages.

The canal has also reduced dependence on scarce groundwater and supports large-scale irrigation, enabling farmers to cultivate crops and significantly strengthen animal husbandry. Rainfall itself has increased, a shift local people say is due to the increased availability of water and vegetation the canal has given growth to.

"Fifty to sixty years ago, our forefathers in Jaisalmer used to tell guests, 'You may ask for a glass of ghee or milk, but do not ask for a glass of water,'" says local social activist and veteran journalist R.K. Vyas. "That has changed... Due to the canal water, Jaisalmer witnessed changes in rainfall over the past decade. Though there was no rain last year, we pray that this year brings good rainfall so that our livestock survives and the cycle of nature continues with joy and prosperity," he adds.

However, despite this progress, the problem of water scarcity persists.

According to the Central Groundwater Board, as of 2022, Jaisalmer's urban area was among seven cities in the list of 219 of Rajasthan's 302 blocks which were categorised as over-exploited for groundwater.

With temperatures hovering between 47 and 50 degrees Celsius, resident Razak Mahmood depends on his two camels to draw water from his ancestral well in Kalu ka Talav, a village surrounded by sand dunes on the outskirts of Ramgarh near the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan. People like Mahmood still struggle to secure enough water for themselves and their livestock. "The canal needs maintenance throughout the year so that sand dunes do not spill into them and obstruct the water flow," says Hukumsinh Mahicha Rathod, who lives near the Jaisalmer Fort.

Daily need: A woman washes clothes beside a storage tank at Siyamber village.

Civil society groups stage protest against SIR ahead of its rollout in State

The protest, they say, is also against the remarks of the Supreme Court, which upheld the exercise

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Slogans opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) echoed across Freedom Park on Saturday as civil society groups protested against the exercise, set to roll out in Karnataka starting June 20.

The protest, groups said, was also against the remarks of the Supreme Court, which upheld the exercise and described it as "an advancement towards free and fair elections".

Calling the exercise a "targeted and planned" attempt at disenfranchisement, the protesters argued that the ECI guidelines allow the Commission to revise procedures as it deems fit and accused the apex court of giving the Election Commission of India (ECI) a "blank cheque" to do whatever it wants in the name of SIR.

Activists from various groups staging a protest against SIR at Freedom park in Bengaluru on Saturday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

'Not in rules'

The groups objected to the category of "logical discrepancies", which emerged during the SIR exercise in West Bengal and allegedly led to mass disenfranchisement. "There is no such category in the rules. There is nothing called micro-observers either. These were created later," said activist Vinay Sreenivas, arguing that the Supreme Court had gone a step further by defending that the scale of deletions was not as large as critics claimed.

Pointing out that the same judgment mentions the number of people deleted in Bihar and then says it has not seen that many deletions, Mr. Sreenivas argued, "If judges cannot see what is happening on the ground, petitioners, activists and senior advocates have placed the evidence before them. Yet they refuse to see it," he said. Mohammed Yusuf Kanni, representing Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Karnataka, questioned how voter numbers could decline significantly when compared with Census data if the exercise had been conducted properly.

The groups further alleged that even during Phase I, names of people marked under "Absent, Shifted, Deleted or Duplicate" (ASSD) category, had been removed in some cases without the individuals themselves being aware of it, with ECI making no attempts to create awareness.

"After all this, the Supreme Court and the ECI still call the exercise inclusive," K.V. Bhat, convener, Joint Confederation of Trade Unions, said, accusing the institutions meant to deliver "justice" of acting in a manner that enables "injustice" and alleged that both the ECI and the judiciary were failing to protect vulnerable communities likely to be affected by the exercise.

Govt. should take stand

The protesters urged the State government, which recently discussed the SIR in a Cabinet meeting, to clearly state its position and come up with safeguards to ensure that the exercise does not result in mass disenfranchisement, particularly among Dalits, Adivasis, women and Muslims.

"Whether it is Siddaramaiah or D.K. Shivakumar, the government needs to take a stand. It is the people who gave them power. Before the exercise begins, the Chief Electoral Officer and the government must hold a meeting with civil society representatives and make it clear how the exercise will be carried out in Karnataka," the groups demanded.

Kogilu demolition: After eviction, families plan to approach retired judge to prove residency claims

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

After multiple surveys proved futile and attempts by families to establish their identity yielded no result, residents whose houses were demolished in parts of Fakir Colony and Waseem Layout in Kogilu Layout, Yelahanka, in December 2025 have decided to approach a retired judge and submit their documents for an independent review of their claims, as many continue to remain without shelter more than five months later.

The houses were razed by government authorities, who claimed that the families had encroached on government land. The demolition resulted in close to 160 houses being demolished.

However, following criticism from CPI(M) leader and former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the State government intervened. Ministers, including Housing and Minority Welfare Minister, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, had assured that eligible families would be allotted houses in Byappanahalli in January. However, even as of March, only 29 families had been provided houses.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the families and the NGO working with them said they remain stuck because one section claims that everyone had lived there for more than 20 years, while another claims that nobody had lived there for less than five years. They contend that neither claim reflects the reality, as over 20 families were living there for more than 15 years, while many came in and settled in between.

Houses in Kogilu Layout were razed in December by government authorities, who claimed that the families had encroached on government land. FILE PHOTO

Members of the Fakir community, NGO representatives said, have been living there for many years, while several other families claimed the same had not. The NGOs point to surveys done by them for families of fakirs spanning years, which record their presence.

Satellite images

While satellite images show a small pond in the area in pictures generated five years back, many families still maintain that they had been residing there for over 20 years.

Residents said the confusion stemmed largely from the involvement of caste leaders, one representing Dalits and another representing Muslims, who initially claimed they could secure houses for the families, allegedly collected ₹2 lakh from each family, and later instructed them to maintain that they had been living there for many years.

Families who lost their homes said they are uneducated and followed the advice of their caste leaders as they trusted them. "Many documents were lost during the demolition.

Families that lost their homes say they are uneducated and followed the advice of their caste leaders as they trusted them

We submitted whatever documents remained during the Housing Department survey, hoping that houses would be allotted to us. It has been more than five months, but there is still no clarity on when we will receive them," a resident said.

Families also said they have decided not to move elsewhere under any circumstances, fearing that even the tents they currently occupy may be removed.

The families are being asked to furnish as many as six documents by various departments involved in the housing allotment process, *The Hindu* has learnt. These include income certificates, voter IDs, ration cards, bank details, and other supporting records. A mass documentation drive has also been started recently, under which NGOs and activists are helping families obtain and verify documents. Once this process is completed, the families plan to approach a retired judge and present the documents in an effort to substantiate their claims.

Over 9,400 people visit 'Nanna e-Khata, Nanna Hakku' campaign in three weeks

GBA data indicates that the highest number of visitors approached the camps for e-Khata services and corrections. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a span of three weeks since its introduction, as many as 9,457 people visited the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA)'s "Nanna e-Khata, Nanna Hakku" campaign, held across the five city corporations, with 3,275 applications already disposed of.

On Saturday alone, 1,842 citizens visited the centres for matters related to e-Khata, mutation, corrections, new e-Khata applications, B-to-A Khata conversion, grievance applications, and other services. Of these, 947 applications were resolved on the spot.

The East City Corporation received the highest response, with as many as 2,545 people visiting the campaign over the three-week period. It was followed by the South City Corporation with 2,498 visitors and the West City Corporation with 2,144 visitors. GBA data also indicate that the highest number of visitors approached the camps for e-Khata services and corrections, a trend observed across all five corporations.

Constable's act of kindness wins hearts

A screengrab from the video.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A video of a traffic constable helping a physically challenged person stranded in the middle of a severely flooded road during rain on Friday has gone viral, drawing widespread public appreciation.

The video shows a traffic constable, identified as Anil of the Byatarayanapura Traffic Police Station, dressed in an orange raincoat, trying to help the person cross the road. With the road flooded to knee level and water flowing swiftly, the person struggles to walk. The constable lifts him onto his shoulder and carries him safely across.

Near-vision glasses improved productivity among Bengaluru garment workers: Study

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A study conducted among garment factory workers in Bengaluru has found that correcting near-vision impairment with simple reading glasses significantly improved productivity, while also enhancing workers' quality of life.

Published recently in the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*, the study titled PROSPER II (PROductivity Study of Presbyopia Elimination in gaRment workers) was conducted by Good Business Lab, a non-profit labour innovation lab, in partnership with Shahi Exports Pvt. Ltd.

Presbyopia, an age-related decline in near vision that generally begins between 35 and 40 years of age, affects more than 1.8 billion people globally and is considered the leading cause of vision impairment worldwide.

Researchers noted that one in four sewing machine operators in the selected factories had uncorrected near-vision impairment affecting both work and daily activities.

Researchers say the findings are particularly significant for the garment industry, where work such as stitching, inspection and finishing relies heavily on detailed near-vision tasks.

The study was carried out between November 2023 and May 2024 across factories operated by the garment manufacturers in Karnataka. Researchers found that workers who received near-vision glasses recorded a 5.7% to 6% increase in productivity over a 12-week period compared with those who did not receive immediate vision correction.

Nearly 5,000 screened

The study screened 4,990 workers, of whom 3,648 underwent detailed eye examinations. A total of 682 workers – a majority of whom were women, with an average age of 41 years – were enrolled in the trial. Participants were randomly divided into two groups, with 344 workers receiving immediate near-vision glasses and the remaining group receiving them at the end of the study period.

The intervention, implemented by VisionSpring, a non-profit social enterprise, involved vision screening and provision of free spectacles.

Researchers estimated that the intervention generated a 337% return on investment during the three-month trial period.

Factories recorded an estimated net benefit of around ₹4,000 per worker within six weeks, with projected annual gains of nearly ₹15,000 per worker.

The study also documented improvements in self-reported visual function and day-to-day activities among workers receiving glasses. Adherence to wearing spectacles rose steadily during the study, increasing from 41% in the fourth week to 65% by the twelfth week.

Researchers said the findings were particularly significant for the garment industry, where work such as stitching, inspection and finishing relies heavily on detailed near-vision tasks. India's textile and garment sector employs millions of workers, a large proportion of them women.

Low-cost intervention

Achyuta Adhvaryu, co-founder of Good Business Lab, and one of the authors of the study, said the trial demonstrated that a simple and low-cost intervention could produce productivity gains comparable to far more expensive performance-linked incentives or training programmes. Anant Ahuja, director - ESG and Sustainability at Shahi Exports, said the company would now expand vision correction programmes across its factories, with a target of reaching nearly 1,00,000 workers.

Corroborating the findings, Rohit Shetty, chairman of Narayana Nethralaya, said the trial highlighted how accessible eye care could directly improve workplace dignity, women's empowerment and economic independence.

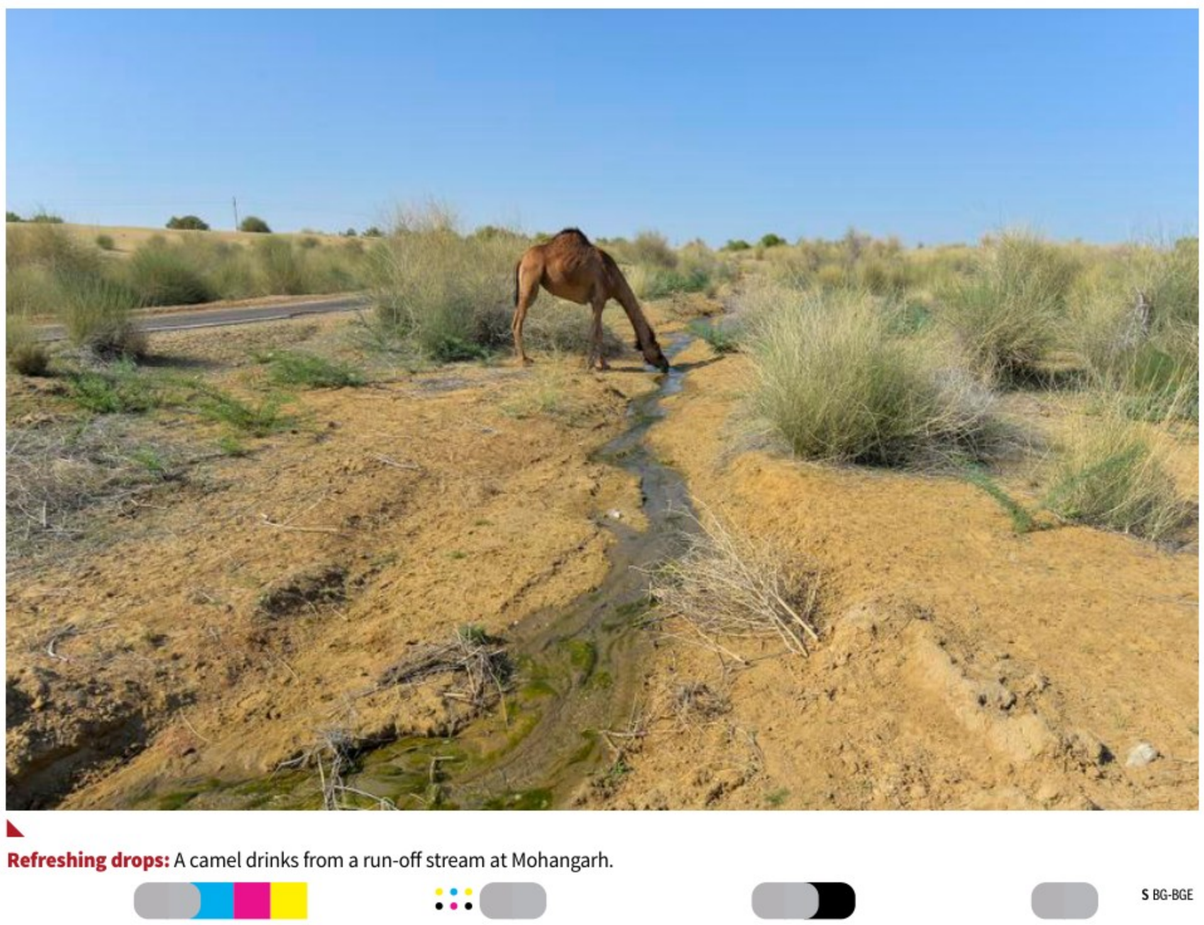
"Clear near vision is often taken for granted, yet millions of workers across low- and middle-income countries struggle daily with preventable visual disability. This research reinforces that accessible eye care directly impacts economic independence, workplace dignity, women's empowerment and poverty reduction. ," he said.

Beyond the canal: Razak Mahmood draws water from his ancestral well at Kalu ka Talav near Ramgarh.

Help at hand: With temperatures often touching 50°C, Razak Mahmood depends on his camels to draw water from the well.

Fields of change: A farmer in his field near Ramgarh village; access to irrigation has enabled agriculture to flourish in these parts.

Lifeline amid crises: Farmers draw water from a well to quench their thirst amid sand dunes at Siyamber village in Jaisalmer district.



Refreshing drops: A camel drinks from a run-off stream at Mohangarh.

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Hindu Tamil SCA Dr. MD General Medicine, 29/158, working at Ooty Medical College and Hospital seeks Groom, qualified in the same line. Contact: 9944097672.

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QUALIFIED(ABROAD) B'FUL Girl (Hindu), 1990/165cm, father cardiologist, seeks qualified groom. Caste no bar, open to all regional backgrounds. Preferred NRI: US/Canada/Eur. Contact 9266863038

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DKV/SC, 32/ May 94, 167cm, Fair, BE (CS), Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. / Abroad. Ct:8056143638

VANNIYAR, (27/164), LLM, Beautiful, Working in a Pvt Concern Chennai seeks suitable groom. Ct. 9940655572

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SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employed bridegroom 8754354205

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HINDU SC AD girl 25/162cm, BA LLB Honours, (LLM), working in Madras High court, suitable bridegroom expected from Govt. Officer, caste no bar, contact no–8939911100, Mail Id: princeiasacademy.pblr@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR parents invite alliance for their daughter, 29yrs, 164.5cm, well–educated, accomplished professional from a well–established & reputed family. Seeking well–settled, Professionally accomplished/ Business class groom from a respectable Hindu Nadar family. Ct: 8939968399

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HINDU NADAR, – M.S. Ophthalmology – 33/168cm Vitreo–Retina Surgeon – Chennai – Seeking Bridegroom Cell: 9840038499

Pillai NonVeg 26yrs/164cm Pooja Fair B.E., Healthcare Admin Canada seeks NRI Groom. 9894107825, 9500595339

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MUDALIAR 33/160, Anusham, M.A (HR) , Father Business, Working Teacher International School, Own House at Adyar, Rental Income 1L, 10Acres, Seeks Qualified Well Placed Groom. Subsect No Bar, OBC Also. 9884863220.

MUDALIAR 25/165, Fair, MBA IIM, JMD Industries, 60.LAC.PA, Elite, 100 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR 25, BE, MS, 161cm, Good Looking Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB. Ct. 8778514465/ 7200866346

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TAMIL YADHAVA, BE MBA (IIM) 32/162, well employed, seeks Professionally qualified and employed Groom from respectable Family. Contact: 98402 30025

TELUGU

Balija Naidu 28yrs/172cm, M.Sc (C.S) Visakam 3rd Padam, Thulam Rasi, Fair, Seeks Professionally Qualified Groom.Ct: 9445229864/044-42875069

NAIDU: 25/V.FAIR, B.Arch, Doing Father Business, Chennai, Elite Family (100cr), seeks any Telegu Groom Business / Eng – 9962530015

DIVORCEE CHETTIAR (CNB) 27yrs / Beautiful, MBBS,MS, Doctor, Chennai, Elite family,Only daughter– seeks groom Doctor/Any PG Degree– 8925019776

BRIDES WANTED

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SMART, SUCCESSFUL 30, 185cm, sociable, educated (BL/IIM), 2nd–gen biz owner. Respected, industrialist family. Seeks compatible bride. Lang. & caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

Aryavysya, Caste No bar, 29 yrs, 178 cm, Software, 45 LPA, mild eye issue, Seeking simple Girl. Ph: 8555072557

✔ **Post-Graduate Electronics** Engineer, 30 years old, working in Hyderabad (Semiconductor Services Firm), seeks suitable Christian Bride, Tamil Parents (Father - Retd. Sr. Executive, Private sector, Mother - Consultant Physician), Contact: WhatsApp: 79972 79991, email Id: pcig6961@gmail.com

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37YRS, B.TECH mgr govt Bank salary 1.5 LPM owning properties in Ch, Seeking alliance CNB. 9940507235

CASTE/ STATUS/ Religion No bar, 49 years, Masters Degree in Engineering, Worked in the U.S for 17 years and returned back to India to start his own Export business in Coimbatore. Looking for a simple and a homely girl. Contact 9384901293.

DIVORCEE

MUDALIAR 34, Pub.Sec Employee Wellsettled, Short Divorcee, No issues Suitable Elite Bride Ct:W 9830282090

CAST NO BAR:OBC/58Yr M.A,MSc,LL.B 50T PM:Shd know Little Telugu. Looking for Good Hearted Bride. 9866456009

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Feb 1998, 178cm, MD, DM Nephrology, Seeks Doctor Bride. Contact: 9500085244

HINDU SC / AD, MD Pathology, Age : 31yrs., Star : Ashwini, seeks Doctor MD / MS Bride. Ct: 866 755 5837

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Nair Youth age 34 Yrs,163cm, Star Chitra, Financially stable, Own Business of Medical Equipments currently staying in Chennai and Own House in Shoranur with Doshajathakam looking for Slim Brides from Chennai or Kerala. CT: 9995393624. No agencies

NRI

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TELUGU

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NAIDU 28/162 TELUGU/CHENNAI B.Tech MNC BANK seeking educated professional groom contact FATHER– 9445908221

NAIDU 27/162, Beautiful, B.Tech, MBA,ED,Exporter, 7000000 PA, Elite, 80.Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

CHENNAI NAIDU 34/5"5 Sadhyam Kumbham BE MBA,Fair Good Looking Girl For Remarriage Short Lived,Seeks Groom From India/Abroad.CNB. Ph:93447 09905/ 95000 09694.

NRI

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CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN 26/BE/172/12L PA Well Settled Family Seeks Educated Bride. Subsect No Bar. Contact : 8148004573

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TAMIL MUSLIM 32 yrs, BE, MBA, Software Engineer, MNC, Seeks Employed Bride. Contact: 9444008160

PROFESSOR - Govt. College, 45 / Divorcee, Caste, Religion - No Bar. Ct:94426 95558

VANNIAR GROOM 12.06.1982, B.E, M.B.A (Lon), Divorced, No issue. IT Chennai, 16.5 Lakhs/PA. Seeks Bride CNB (OC, BC, M.B.C Only) Contact: 9944928521 Vellore.

BRIDE WANTED SC (AD),30yrs, BE, MBA,Well Educated Family in Chennai Ph:6385293227

BRIDE WANTED 28yrs,civil service, Well Educated Family background, Caste no bar Ph:6385293227

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THE HINDU

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HINDU NADAR, 43/171, B.Tech, MS, Working in Canada, First Marriage, willing to relocate to US,London. Seeks Bride, Caste No Bar. 8148166505.

DOCTOR PARENTS, Hindu Nadar, 25 yrs, M.S Gen. Surgeon seeks MBBS Bride. Ct: 94437 51221

KONGU VELLALA gounder, 28, USA, MS, IAS Family, looking for a bride in same caste and well educated family. 8137003550

31 YRS groom doing M.Ch Urology, Chennai, seeks vegetarian PG doctor / professional non medico bride Contact : 9080296807

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE,PHD,PROFESSOR Pvt Eng.Collage, age 53, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divor cee without child from FC/ OBC (40–4 5yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959

VANIYA CHETTIYAR, 28, MS, Engineer, 45 lakhs, Sweden, searching for same caste and any subcaste from anywhere in Tamilnadu. 8137001255

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 31 yrs,BE, MS (sweden), height 175cm, SWE in sweden,4 lakhs/m from same caste. Contact 9380791999,9611783576, 9841329471

DIVORCEE HINDU. 35yrs No issues, M.Tech, well settled Software Engineer, seeking bride with no issues. Caste no bar. 9841862535, 9941962421

28 YRS Hindu, Yadhava well settled family. M.L., Legal Adviser to Maran brothers. Salary One lakh/ pm. seeking bride caste no bar 9841062535

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HINDU SC PR Aswini 38/178 Central Govt Job 86000 Per Month Well Settled Seeks Suitable Girl. 90044 06307, 90428 85492.

GAVARA NAIDU 29/165, M.E., Design Engr in reputed MNC, own business & rental income, affluent family, Star:Thiruvonam, Rasi: Magaram. Seeking Suitable Alliance.CNB: 9841097110

EEZHAVA / Vanniyar, 37yrs, 180cm, BBA, Thiruvathira, 80K, Chennai. Seeking Bride cast no bar, Tamil / Malayalam Ct: 9840142978 / 9043512184

ARCOT MUDALIAR Unmarried MBA IIM 169cm/ Sep 88 Thiruvathirai Midhunam Clear Horoscope Very Fair Teetotaller 80L,Chennai.Seeks suitable match. CasteNoBar. 9940434055/ 9742010729

TAMIL

HINDU–BE,34YRS,SWE,172CMS,33LPA,AYILLAM–KADAGAM,SETTLED IN Bangalore. Financially Stable and educated. Looking for suitable Bride from educated family. CNB, Ct 9845401461.

NADAR 38 Barani legally divorcee Christian,nokids,ME PhD, Proff. Chennai seeks bride Reli.CNB. 9443269548.

MUDALIAR 30/182 H.some, B.E,MBA,CEO, Construction Bus, 2.Cr.PA, Elite,200 Cr. CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 28 yrs, MCA,SWE,1.5 L/pm, business family Ph: 9841329471,9380791999

CHENNAI MUDLR PhD. Tetotlr divorcd, 42yrs 170cm GM Chess Govt 24L/ yr Educ simple anycast girl. 9884171419

SC HINDU Mithunam Thiruvathirai 32 / 180 BE, MBA Smart IT Chennai Seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with Join & Well settled Family. Caste No Bar. 9789920881 / 8778546961

BHARDWAJ POORATATHI Iyer unmarried 43/170cm B.Com Dip in Hotel management 6 lac PA, own flat, seek any Brahmin girl, Divorcee no bar, preferably working. Ct: 98402–15610

IYER ASHTASAHS Kasyb divorcee, Barani 40/180, double Masters (India, US) Ph.D (thesis, Germany) Employed Germany seeks qualified unmarried, divorcee short lived marriage No issues bride, employed Europe or Indian willing to relocate Germany. 9444551216/ 8122892822

Vadakalai Iyengar Boy, Punarpoosam 153 cm 6 Inch, Bharatwaja Gothram, 1979, never married, MNC, Chennai, M.S. IT, 32Lac PA seeks never Married Preferably Non Working Brides.contact with BPH Whats App 7299704899.

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Fair Handsome MD Doctor 28 Yrs / 167/ 60 kg,Tamil Brahmin, BANGALORE seeking Bride from Brahmin Community (any sect/state ok). We are simple decent Family background. Please Contact: siddha97@hotmail.com, Mobile : 9845227463

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TAMIL

HINDU VANNIYA GOUNDER GROOM

28 yrs, 165 cm, pursuing MD Radiology, from affluent family in chennai, seeks Doctor Bride (PG completed/ pursuing), 25-28 yrs. Same community preferred; others welcome. Whatsapp details to: 7502663029

Pillai 36/177 BE, MBA, SWE MNC, 21LPA, Chennai, seeks suitable Bride, not horoscope Any BC ok.9500147451

BE IIT 188 cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91. Wkg in Hyderabad Very high package seeks Bride Telugu, Tamil Allied Castes also Cont: 7382620365

Vanniar 1990 Employed US company work from home in chennai seeks employed hindu bride.9884904306

MBA (SPAIN) Fair Boy 30/185 Elite, Educated Family. Seeks Fair Beautiful Girl, Caste No bar 9840970170

Wanted a Suitable Girl for a Doctor Dentist (MDS) 36Y Balija Naidu. Star-Hastham. Subcaste ok any professional 98840 66086 / 91768 99784

TELUGU

GAVARA NAIDU 33/155 BSc VC, Elite family, biz, 18L/Pa seeks girl any degree, same/ sub caste. 9962302927

BALIJA NAIDU, Hastham/Kanni, 33/ 174, (B.E), 30 LPA, Chennai, seeks a suitable Bride. 9940651592.

NAIDU 31/183 Handsome, MBA, Own Convention Centers,1.5.Cr.PA, Elite , 200 Cr, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

SM4 Kapu Naidu Boy. 35 Yrs /178 cm Dental Surgeon, Own Hospital & MedTech Startup. Seeks Bride Pref. Dr/CA. CT: 9407894965, 9893848984

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City gripped by IPL fever as RCB eyes consecutive win

The final, which will see Bengaluru's home team lock horns with the Gujarat Titans, is scheduled for today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Garden City is set to be engulfed by a sea of red on Sunday as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will play their second consecutive Indian Premier League (IPL) final, where they will lock horns with the Gujarat Titans in a high-voltage title clash. The celebratory mood had already begun on Saturday, as the streets of Central Bengaluru were awash in red with street vendors commencing sales of jerseys and accessories. On the other hand, major pubs and restaurants across the city are witnessing early bookings.

Interestingly, short-term rental houses are also seeing increased bookings, as many screenings have been called off in the city following an advisory issued by the Bengaluru City Police (BCP).

The final is scheduled to be played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Hundreds of fans are flying to Gujarat from Bengaluru to witness the match live.

Among them are members of Namma Team RCB, a fan club that has been actively engaging supporters throughout the IPL season. Preetham Karigar, founder of the club, told *The Hindu* that 75 members of the group have booked tickets and will be watching the match together.

Seventy-five members of Namma Team RCB, a fan club in the city, have booked tickets to Ahmedabad to watch the match live at the Narendra Modi Stadium. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We anticipated our team reaching the final just by the way they have been playing this season. Many of them left on Saturday, and a few of us will leave on Sunday," he said.

Anil Kumar, an ardent RCB follower, said that his entire office team has booked a short-term rental for a day and will be watching the match together.

"We will meet early and prepare dinner and other dishes before the start of the match. We can watch the match just as we do in restaurants and pubs, but at a much lower cost, as bookings have become expensive," he said.

Similarly, many fans are organising house parties this time.

"House parties are much better than going out, getting stuck in traffic, and now adding rain to the list. It will be a peaceful watch followed by good conversation about the match," said Manoj Kashyap, another fan.

The owner of a bar and restaurant in Indiranagar told *The Hindu* that reservations had already been exhausted, with bookings beginning as early as Friday. This was the case with most establishments checked by *The Hindu*. "We are resorting to reservations based on floor capacity because crowds can become difficult to manage on such occasions. This can also lead to issues with the police," the owner told *The Hindu*.

In addition, the BCP has directed all establishments to facilitate screenings only for patrons and to obtain prior permission for any outdoor screening so that the required deployment can be arranged after assessing the venues.

If the home team emerges victorious, the celebratory mood is expected to engulf the entire city, which is exactly what fans are hoping for. However, for the Bengaluru police, it will be a busy week, with political developments also unfolding in the State. The force is expected to prepare for two to three major events within a span of three days.

Planning is already under way. The Bengaluru Traffic Police will impose restrictions, including the closure of certain stretches of road. Enhanced drunk-driving checks and strict action against reckless driving will also be implemented. The BCP is pushing for responsible celebrations and has launched a social media campaign featuring posts and videos urging people to celebrate peacefully.

Police advisory

- No celebrations allowed in public places
- No installation of screens outside establishments for public viewing
- No bike rallies, overspeeding, stunts, misuse of horns, or road blockages
- No consumption of alcohol in public places
- No provocative or hateful content on social media

No offer of free services, says BMRCL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on Saturday clarified that it has not announced any scheme offering free metro travel for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fans on Sunday, amid social media posts and advertisements claiming free services ahead of the IPL final.

In a statement, BMRCL said it had neither approved nor authorised any individual, organisation, or entity to promote or advertise free travel on Namma Metro for RCB supporters or any other category of passengers.

The corporation reiterated that all passengers must purchase valid tickets for commuting.

Over 3,000 tree and branch fall incidents reported in a month

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over the one month between April 29 and May 29, heavy rains and strong winds across Bengaluru led to 3,015 complaints related to fallen trees and branches, according to data from the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Of these, 2,927 complaints were cleared, while 88 remain pending.

The incidents included 949 cases of fallen trees and 2,066 cases of fallen branches.

GBA teams cleared 923 fallen trees and 2,004 fallen branches during the period.

The highest number of complaints was reported in West City Corporation, which received 1,249 complaints, followed by the South City Corporation with 700 complaints.

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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

From Page One

Four in 10 cancer cases linked to tobacco use

World No Tobacco Day is observed on May 31. FILE PHOTO

Apart from cancers of the oral cavity, lungs, pharynx and oesophagus, tobacco use is associated with heart disease, chronic respiratory illnesses and several reproductive health complications.

Pointing out that Karnataka has made progress in reducing tobacco consumption over the years, Dr. Naveen cited data from the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2) that revealed that 8.8% of adults in the State use tobacco, lower than the national average of 28.6%. However, tobacco use remains high among men, with 16.8% reporting consumption of tobacco in some form, compared to 0.7% among women.

In Bengaluru, tobacco is estimated to account for 6,368 of the 15,693 new cancer cases expected this year. Tobacco-related cancers are also projected to contribute to 44.6% of all cancer deaths in the city, the doctor said.

The most common tobacco-related cancers seen among men in Bengaluru are cancers of the lung, mouth and tongue, while among women, cancers of the lung, mouth and oesophagus predominate. Apart from cancer, tobacco consumption also contributes to several other serious health conditions, including heart disease, respiratory illnesses, sleep disturbances, urinary bladder disorders and impotence in men

In women, tobacco use is associated with menstrual irregularities, stillbirths, low birth weight infants and increased risk of cervical cancer, Dr. Naveen said..

"This year's World No Tobacco Day theme, "Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction," seeks to draw attention to marketing tactics that promote tobacco and nicotine products, particularly among young people," he said.

"Stronger awareness campaigns, early detection programmes and sustained tobacco-control measures are essential to reduce the burden of tobacco-related diseases in the State. With a majority of tobacco-related illnesses and deaths being preventable, we urge the public to avoid tobacco in all forms," the doctor added.

Massive fire breaks out in school in Nagadevanahalli; no one injured

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A massive fire erupted in a school at Nagadevanahalli in west Bengaluru on Saturday morning, triggering panic in the neighbourhood. The staff was evacuated on time. No one was hurt in the incident.

As per sources, the fire broke out in the school auditorium, located on the top floor. A preliminary probe suggested that a short circuit triggered the blaze, but the exact cause is yet to be ascertained.

A Fire and Emergency Services Department source told *The Hindu* that they received a call around 9.55 a.m., following which three fire tenders were sent to the spot. It took about an hour to contain the fire, and nearly two hours to completely bring the situation under control.

"Initial information we received was that the school had a parent-teacher meeting, but there weren't many people present. As the fire originated in the auditorium, it spread rapidly through the establishment. Several documents and files were reduced to ashes," the source added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
TENDER CALL NOTICE

HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/28348/ Dt.: 30.05.2026

(For AI-Enabled Examination Security, Surveillance and Ancillary Support Services during Conduct of Multiple Examinations)

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible and experienced agencies for AI-Enabled Examination Security, Surveillance and Ancillary Support Services during Conduct of Multiple Examinations by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha. The last date and time for submission of the quotation is on or before **25.06.2026.**

For More details, Please visit our official website **https://dhe.odisha.gov.in**

NOTE : **The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.**

Director, Higher Education

11001/72/2627 OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0008

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERINGDIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-1/2026-27/685 Date : 29/05/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work : 1. Repairs to C.D. from Jirolli to Kahanapur village in Aland Taluka Indent No.25185, 2. Construction of RCC Drain from Chidandeshwar temple to Bhosga B internal road, drainage and CD work at Itaga village in Jewargi Taluka Indent No.26736, 3. Repairs to damaged road from Minajagi village to Garoor village in Kalaburagi Taluka Indent No.26731 4. Improvements to road from Kanameshwar village to Muradi cross 3.00km in Yadrami Taluka Indent No.26778, 2) Head of account: **CMIDP / 5054**, 3) Amount put to tender: Minimum **Rs. 50,29,740.10,** Maximum **Rs. 1,51,15,715.79,** 4) Class of Contractor: Class-III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **25-05-2026 to 09-06-2026 upto 4.00 pm** 6) Tender Form Fee : As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Minimum Rs. 1,01,000.00, Maximum Rs. 2,27,000.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents : **25-05-2026 to 09-06-2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **10-06-2026 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **12-06-2026 After 11.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/175/KSMC&A/2026-27 Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd,
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddhi Bhavana, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indira Nagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560038. Phone Number: 080-25196100/124/126.
E-mail: info@kuidfc.com, Website: www.kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/UWM/TEND/05/2026-27/676 Date: 30.05.2026

Tender Notification

KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT Environmental compensation fund and SBM (U) 2.0 fund for below mentioned project from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl No	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Excl. GST) Rs inLakhs	Earnest Money Deposit Rs in Lakhs
1	Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) of varying capacities of 1.83 to 3.78 MLD at **Maski, Turavihala & Balaganur ULBs of Raichur District** along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (U) -2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **(Package: SBM_KLB_PKG-14). Call-2**	1272.25	13.00
2	Construction of 3.28 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant in Attibele town along with 5 years Operation & Maintenance (including 1-year Defect liability period) under SBM (U)-2.0 fund through Design, Built, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model. **Call-2**	744.57	12.00

Tender Publish Date	**01.06.2026**
Pre-bid meeting Date & Time	**04.06.2026 Time: 11.30 AM**
Last Date & Time for Bid submission	**09.06.2026 Time: 5.30 PM**
Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid	**11.06.2026 Time: 11.30 AM**
Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid	**22.06.2026 Time: 11.30 AM**

Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/CP/AAA/909/2026-27 **Project Monitoring Unit, UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru**

Government of Karnataka
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot
Tel Phone.: 08354- 235042 E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com Fax: 08354-235043

No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-1,2,3/CMIDP/Tender/2026-27/602 Date: 29.05.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (One & Two Cover System)
(KW-1,2 &3 Bid Document)

Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-1,2,3&4 through Public electronic Tendering System **(E-Tender from Class-1,2,3 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD,** Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below.

Tender Called for ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶಿರ್ಷಿಕೆಗಳಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಅನುದಾನದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆಯಾದ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮುಧೋಳ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ

Scheme Under Work Indent No:

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ : **25621, 25623, 25627, 25624, 25628, 26651, 26641, 26647, 26650**

ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2 (ಎ) ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **22860, 25553, 25572, 26645, 26646**

ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–I ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **25579**

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **25622, 25629, 22830, 25580, 26639, 26640, 26642, 26643, 26649**

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **25626, 25590**

ಇದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.10.00 ದಿಂದ 60.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಮಿತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು), ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ.

read as below.

Calendar of event

1	Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement	**Dt:30.05.2026 to 25.06.2026 at 5.30pm**
2	Opening of Technical Bid Date (ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.)	**Dt:27.06.2026 at 11.00 am**
3	Opening of Financial Bid Date	**Technical Bid Approved.**

Note:-More details can be obtained through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. **Phone no: 08354-235042**

Sd/-
DIPR/Bgk/68/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27 **Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bagalkote**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2026-27/24
Dated : 25.05.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1) Mysuru - Construction of SSE/Electrical/G Maintenance office for VRC Colony. 2) Augmentation and upgradation of crew lobby at Mysuru	Rs. 12,31,001.22

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 15-06-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/
PUB/169/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27 General/Mysuru

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CHANGE OF NAME

I Sandhya Manjunath, W/o Manjunath G residing at No.1431,2nd Floor, 11th Cross, Kengeri Upanagara, Kengeri-560060, do hereby solemnly state that my name in SSLC Marks Sheet & Passport is mentioned as Sandya S, which is incorrect in both of my documents. My correct name as per Aadhar card in all the related & public relation documents it is mentioned as **Sandhya Manjunath. Both the names Sandya S and Sandhya Manjunath** refer to the same person Vide Affidavit Dated 29.05.2026 Sworn Before Notary Deepa M Bangalore.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE, CIVIL ENGINEERING
No. W/623/15, Date. 27.05.2026

Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), West Central Railway, Kota for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites following open E.tenders. **Tender No.:** 90/2026, **Description of work :** Balance work of construction of Relay, Battery and IPS room in connection with EI/REPL indoor signaling gears on age cum condition basis for ensuring safety of trains at IDG station., **Approx Cost :** 2029535.51, **Earnest Money :** 40600.00, **Tender No.:** 91/2026, **Description of work :** Improvement of drainage system in M.G. colony at Sawai Madhopur in KOTA-SWM section. **Approx Cost :** 4665366.50, **Earnest Money :** 93300.00, **Tender No.:** 92/2026, **Description of work :** Balance work of Provision of RCC over head tank capacity 225000 liters in replacement of steel over head tank at stations of HAN and Provision of 90000 litre capacity Over head tank in lieu of old steel tank at BXN station., **Approx Cost :** 11668444.84, **Earnest Money :** 233400.00, **Tender No.:** 93/2026R, **Description of work : (A)** DEN/Central Section-Provision of various siding facilities including Pit Line for TTM/RGM sidings at different stations. **(B)** Provision of Derailing switches to enable stabling on long haul loop at LBN station. **(C)** Provision of Glued Joints in connection with replacement of interlocking system of warm stand by and indoor signalling on age cum condition basis at AMLI yard. **Approx Cost :** 26472403.84, **Earnest Money :** 529500.00, **Tender No.:** 94/2026 R, **Description of work :** Kota-Mathura Section: Replacement old RCC/Stone slab with RCC Box/Slab at bridge No: 256UP, 257UP, 274UP, 287UP, 292UP, 302UP, 303UP & 316UP under the jurisdiction of ADEN-SWM. **Approx Cost :** 26831396.34, **Earnest Money :** 536600.00, **Tender No.:** 95/2026R, **Description of work :** DEN-E Section - Civil work in connection with provision of RGM Track Machine Siding including various required facilities., **Approx Cost :** 6788064.91, **Earnest Money :** 135800.00, **Tender No.:** 96/2026, **Description of work :** KOTA-NAD Section Provision of New Type-III Quarter 04 units at SGZ=1, BWM=1, MKX=1, JHW=1 under ADEN/RMA and ADEN/SGZ, **Approx Cost :** 12047212.78, **Earnest Money :** 241000.00, **Tender No.:** 97/2026R, **Description of work : (A)** Sr.DEN/S Section - Provision of various siding facilities including Pit Line for TTM/RGM sidings at different stations. **(B)** Provision of Derailing switches to enable stabling on long haul loop at THUR station. **Approx Cost :** 12999340.51, **Earnest Money :** 260000.00, **Tenders No. 90/2026 to 92/2026 tenders Last Date & Time of submission of tender :** 15.30 Hrs. On dt 09.06.2026, **and Tenders No. 93/2026R to 97/2026R tenders Last Date & Time of submission of tender :** 15.30 Hrs. On dt 19.06.2026 Complete details are available in the E- tender notice uploaded on the railway web site www.ireps.gov.in and also placed on the notice board of the Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), DRM Office, West Central Railway Kota's office.

Sd./-
Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), West Central Railway, Kota

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

CANARA BANK RO EAST
3RD FLOOR, SPENCER TOWERS, 86, M.G.ROAD, BENGALURU - 560001.
PH: 080-25008800

NOTICE TOWARDS BREAK OPEN OF LOCKERS

Sl. No.	Name And Address of the locker hirers	Account No.	Locker Dues (excluding penalties) Rs.	Date of Notice
	Branch Name & DP Code: 415, HAL II STAGE			
1	**VIDYA ANAND** W/O ANAND S D201,G.R.REGENCY,14TH CROSS, BYRASSANDRA ROAD,G.M 560075	xxxxxx504850	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
2	**MR WOHRA T S.,** 1127 D BLOCK AECS LAYOUT KUNDALAHALLI BANGALORE 560037	xxxxxx715144	8,223.21	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 430, INDIRANAGAR			
3	**PATRICIA RODRICKS,** 6/7,KENSINGTON TOWERS 45,KENSINTON RD, OPP ULSOOR SWI BANGALORE 560042	xxxxxx192799	14,160.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 439, VARTHUR			
4	**VARTHUR PRAKASH.R** S/O V S RAMASWAMY NERIGA ROAD VARTHUR 560087	xxxxxx826676	5,339.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
5	**VENKATASWAMY REDDY H** S/O LATE PAPANNA REDDY 79, HAROHALLI VILLAGE HOSKOTE TALUK 560087	xxxxxx806583	14,160.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
6	**M.SUBRAMANI REDDY,** SP COSTING P.O NO 10053 HADEED AL JUBAIL 31961 . K.S.A 560087	xxxxxx825309	7,674.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 768, MARATHAHALLI			
7	**MANJUSHA K** W/O K MADHUSUDANREDDY RAMAGONDANA HALLI POST BANGALORE 560066	xxxxxx521002	24,780.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 790, VIVEK NAGAR			
8	**AMALANATHAN ANTHONY** P.O. BOX 294226 P.O. BOX 294226 DUBAI 000000	xxxxxx358482	8,122.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 791, ULSOOR			
9	**H B PARIKH,** 242 JEEVAKENDRA LAYOUT CAMBRIDGE ROAD ULSOOR 560008	xxxxxx213105	6,974.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
10	**C ASHWINI,** NO 3/10 B BLOCK DAD QUARTERS CAMBRIDGE LAYOUT ULSOOR BANGALORE 560008	xxxxxx202831	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
11	**NEERAJ SHARMA,** NOMINEE TO SB 00027914 NOMINEE TO SB 00027914 NOMINEE TO SB 00027914 560008	xxxxxxx001182	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
12	**NATESHA M.** NO.14, G NO. 10TH STREET JOGUPALYAM HALASURU 560008	xxxxxxx000249	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
13	**JAGMOHAN KAUR,** 8/2, CAMBRIDGE ROAD ULSOOR, BANGALORE- 560008	xxxxxx212716	18,202.80	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
14	**SHIVASHANKAR PRASAD,** #5 NISARGA GIDDAMMA LAYOUT PWD ROAD AKASHNAGAR BANGALORE 560016	xxxxxxx001159	8,768.97	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
15	**SUBRAMANYA ADIGA P,** N 127 I FLOOR 15TH MAIN II CROSS B S COLONY H A L II BANGALORE 560008	xxxxxx208517	7,521.56	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
16	**MADHUR MOHAN NANDA,** 1909,8TH A CROSS,4TH MAIN HAL 3RD STAGED BANGALORE 560075	xxxxxx210018	9,440.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
17	**GAYATHRI VEERARAGHAVAN,** H 403 NANDI WOODS SYNO 67 1367 2 BEGURHOBLI SOS VILLAGE PO BG ROAD 560076	xxxxxx000682	9,440.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
18	**SUCHITRA BALAKRISHNA** W/O BALAKRISHNAN K R 106 PURVA SUNSHINE APTS SARJAPURA ROAD KAIKONDRAHALLI 560035	xxxxxx206012	9,440.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 885, KORAMANGALA LAYOUT			
19	**ABDUL KAREEM KHAN,** NO.239,18TH MAIN,6TH BLOC KORAMANGALA,BANGALORE 95 BANGALORE 000000	xxxxxx259841	9,777.84	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
20	**KSHAMA GOPAL BHATIA,** 30 BUKIT PASOH ROAD, SINGAPORE 089844,LOCAL: 716,3RD BLOCK,RAHEJA RES 000000	xxxxxx226234	24,780.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
21	**GOPALAN V V,** NO.2538,26 TH MAIN 14 TH A CROSS HSR LAY OUT ,SECTOR-1 560034	xxxxxx212463	5,855.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
22	**CHARI MURLI,** E 312, RAHEJA RESIDENCY KORAMANGALA BENGALURU 560034	xxxxxx659328	9,889.79	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
23	**BALASUBRAMANIAM R,** SUNFLAT (T) LTD PLOT 33 THEMI INDL AREA P O BOX 3123 ARUCHA 000000	xxxxxx308960	14,158.95	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 1420, BOMMASANDRA MAIN BRANCH			
24	**BHASKAR.P.** S/O PANIRASOOMASUNDARI BHASKAR BLDG NEAR MUTHYALAMMA TEM BHAVANI ROAD HEBBAGODI 560099	xxxxxx237193	9,440.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 2739, HAL III STAGE			
25	**SUNAINA ASTHANA,** NO.63, IST CROSS HAL IIIRD STAGE INDIRANAGAR 560075	xxxxxx993654	35,400.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
26	**RAMANAN R.** FLAT C-602, AUGUST PARK APTARTMENTS NO.3, 1 ST B CROSS KAGGADASAPURA, C V RAMAN NAGAR 560093	xxxxxx949330	62,540.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 2757, DODDAKANNAHALLY			
27	**SADANAND B V** S/O M VENKATASWAMY REDDY No.8019th Main 3rd block koramangala 560034	xxxxxx319228	17,134.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
28	**VIMALA R PANIKER** W/O RAMESH B PANIKER 504 BLOOMING DALE,HIRANANDANI ESTAT OFF GHODBUNDER ROAD 400607	xxxxxx267489	5,057.56	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 3006, ELECTRONIC CITY			
29	**VIVEK CHANDRA** S/O MOHANACHANDRA ARISTOS,EMS PVT LTD,NO 31,SEMICON PARK,PHASE II,POST ELECTRONIC CITY 560099	xxxxxx294053	9,816.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 3220, DOMLUR			
30	**RENGARAJAN K** # 3/2 6TH MAIN 6TH CROSS NEW A K COLONY DOMLUR 560071	xxxxxx837721	7,027.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 3221, JIGANI			
31	**MUNISWAMAPPA S** S/O SUBBANNA, NO.347, VADDARAPALYA HARAGADDE POST, JIGANI HOBLI ANEKAL TALUK 562106	xxxxxx147000	36,202.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 8650, VIBHUTHIPURA			
32	**MRUDHULA JOGI** W/O BUJJIBABU JOGI FLAT NO 1102 11TH FLOOR B BLOCK MIRAYA ROSE APT SIDDAPURA MAIN RD WHITEFIELD 560037	xxxxxx836080	12,094.92	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
33	**SHARABANI PAUL** W/O NABENDU DAS T3377 GOLDEN WOODS1ST MAIN 1ST CROSS,TALACAUVRY 560037	xxxxxx784243	14,160.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
34	**TARIQ SALAAM PADIA** KRIPA 196 1 1ST MAIN TALACAUVERY LAYOUT BASAVANAGAR 560037	xxxxxx763145	14,160.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
35	**RAJESH BABU N,** F1 I FLOOR JANA JEEVA PARADISE APTS, VIGNANAGAR NEW THIPPASANDRA PO BLORE 560075	xxxxxx750043	7,669.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 8667, BCO EXTENSION COUNTER			
36	**M RAMESH,** NO 12 21ST CROSS OPP LAKSHMI HOSPITAL KAGGADASAPURA CV RAMAN NAGAR 560093	xxxxxx872681	8,751.61	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 10432, DEFENCE COLONY			
37	**RAMACHANDRAN R,** NO 51 CHANTILLY CRES ANT RICHMOND HILL ONTARIO CANADA L4C QKZ	xxxxxx002090	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
38	**MADHULIKA SOMASEKHAR,** NO 10 MAGAZINE ST APT 906EW YORK NY CAMBRIDGE MA 02139 617 876 24 10025	xxxxxx302441	14,158.19	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
39	**BHOOPAL REDDY R.** NO 665 IST STAGE INDIRANAGAR IST FLOOR OLD SYNDICATE BANK BUILDING BANGALORE 560038	xxxxxx001663	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 10437, ANEKAL			
40	**DEVENDRAPPA PATTAR,** SUPERINTENDENT TALUK SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ANEKAL TOWN BANGALORE DIST 562106	xxxxxx000330	5,310.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 10456, KORAMANGALA J BLOCK			
41	**DURGA PRASAD T,** PROJECT TRAINEE SYNETICS TECHNOLOGIE 703 3BLOCK6th B 560034	xxxxxx001237	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
42	**PARVATHY P** B-49, KIOCL COLONY KORAMANGALA BANGALORE 560034	xxxxxx000442	7,080.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
43	**DIPAKSHI KHAIRA** NO 28 4TH SECTOR HSR LAYOUT BNG 560102	xxxxxxx001333	8,395.34	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
44	**C RAJENDRAN** NO 354,I STAGE,BEHIN IOB,INDIRANAGAR BANGALORE 560038	xxxxxx000515	9,440.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 10476, NATIONAL GAMES VILLAGE			
45	**RAVINDRA KUMAR REDDY** 45 2 2ND FLOOR 8TH CROSS 2ND MAIN WILSON GARDEN 560027	xxxxxx000116	24,780.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
46	**RASHI ANAND,** 103 A 4 GHATAPRABHA NGHC KRAMANGALA 560047	xxxxxx000486	9,321.00	09-04-2026 13-05-2026
	Branch Name & DP Code: 10657, SARJAPURA			
47	**PAULRAJ Y KAMALDINNI** S/O YESHWANTH KAMALDINNI SURAJ FARMS PANDITHANA AGRAHARA KUGUR POST ANEKAL TQ 562125	xxxxxx000319	13,938.87	09-04-2026 13-05-2026

A Public notice is hereby given to all the persons concerned and public in general that the person/s named under this notice have availed the facility of safe depost lockers at the below mentioned branches of Canara Bank (including branches of e- Syndicate bank). The respective branches have already addressed individual letters/Notices by Indian Post/Speed Post to locker hirers/ LOA at the latest available address as per our Bank records with a request to remit the arrears of Locker rent. Despite of these notices, the locker hirers/ LOA have not contacted the Branch and have not remitted the locker rent arrears.

Below named Locker Hirers and their legal heirs are requested to consider this as the Final Notice and contact the Branch concerned with necessary documents and remit the locker rent arrears within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which the Bank will break open the lockers without any further notice or intimation, at the cost and sole risk of the hiers or their legal respresentatives/heirs.

Date: 31.05.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

63% students pass SSLC examination-2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) declared the results of the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exam-2 with a pass percentage of 62.98 on Saturday.

In exam-1, the State achieved 94.10% results. With this, the overall SSLC exam result this year has reached 98.08%, an improvement of 18.04 percentage points compared to 2025.

Last year, the consolidated result was 84.04%.

In exam-2, boys outperformed girls with a pass percentage of 63.29, against the 62.35% achieved by girls. FILE PHOTO

For exam-2, 49,351 students had appeared and 31,080 passed.

A total of 11,854 regular students and 38 private students had registered for exam-2 to improve their scores after passing exam-1.

Out of them, 8,393 students (70.57%) improved their results, and five students scored 100% results. Out of these, one student was from a government school and four from unaided schools.

Among the students who improved their results, 136 scored 100% in the first language, 76 in the second language, 144 in the third language, 52 in mathematics, 126 in science, and 68 in social science.

Private students

Among the 7,649 students who could not appear for exam-1 due to lack of attendance and appeared for exam-2 as private students, 603 passed. The students who passed will have the opportunity to continue their higher studies in the current year itself.

In exam-2, boys outperformed girls with a pass percentage of 63.29, against the 62.35% achieved by girls.

The SSLC marks card is made available to download through NAD Digilocker www.digilocker.gov.in/

Application for photocopy of answer sheets, revaluation, recounting have been allowed via KSEAB website www.kseab.karnataka.gov.in through KarnatakaOne mobile application.

Madikeri Palace set for makeover

MYSURU: The Centre has resolved to transform Madikeri Palace into a heritage tourism destination, taking up conservation and development of the site that includes a proposed museum and upgraded amenities. The development follows efforts by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, who sought protected monument status for the palace.

JAAP-PG 2026

School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi | Bhopal | Vijayawada
Institutions of National Importance under the SPA Act 2014 established by
Ministry of Education, Government of India

Joint Admission for Architecture and Planning - Post Graduate (JAAP-PG) 2026
SPECIAL ROUND

Applications are invited for admission to various postgraduate degree courses at three Institutions, namely; **School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal and School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada for the Academic Session 2026-27 for the vacant seats after completion of 3 rounds of Counselling**

Details of Vacant seats are available at JAAP PG 2026 website: https://jaappg.admissions.nic.in/

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS WILL START FROM 3rd JUNE 2026 and will close on 8th JUNE 2026. (Candidates may note that seats other than the vacant seats may also be available during seat allotment process due to upgradation/withdrawal of existing allottees.)

Candidates are advised to visit JAAP PG 2026 website and refer Business Rules for further details related to Special Round.

1. Online Registration for Special Round

a) Online Registration process will be similar to the earlier registration. Candidates who desire to participate in the Special Round should log-in to portal and complete the registration process.

b) Candidates, who have completed their registration in regular rounds, do not require to register again. However, they will be required to complete the remaining activities.

2. Special Round Participation Fee

a) Candidates who did not pay the seat acceptance fee of Rs. 15,000/- in the earlier round, must pay the same amount as participation fees before document verification and choice filling

b) Candidates who have already paid seat acceptance fee of Rs. 15,000/- in any of the regular rounds are exempted from the participation fee.

c) Candidates belonging to 2a and 2b are exempted from payment of Registration Fees of Rs 3,500/- (GEN/OBC-NCL) and Rs. 1,750/- (GEN-EWS/SC/ST/PwD/)

d) Candidates who have not registered in the previous rounds and registered as a new applicant need to pay Registration Fees of Rs 3,500/- (GEN/OBC-NCL) and Rs. 1,750/- (GEN-EWS/SC/ST/PwD/) as well as Participation Fees of Rs. 15,000/-.

Minimum qualifying marks: Candidates with at least 55% marks or 6.0 CGPA at the qualifying examination, or 50% marks or 5.5 CGPA for the reserved categories SC/ST/ PwD

Candidates without having a valid GATE/CEED/UGC-NET (JRF) Score are also eligible to apply.

Selection Criteria:

Selection of candidates shall be based on:

1) Performance in Qualifying Examination;
2) Valid GATE/CEED/UGC-NET (JRF) Score, as applicable;
3) Physical Interaction, and
4) Work Experience

General Instructions:

1. The Foreign Nationals/ NRI/ PIO/OCI seeking admission in any of the Postgraduate Courses shall apply separately through DASA 2026 portal.
2. Candidate can exercise **any number of choices based on vacancy and eligibility for the course applied for in any of the Institutions.**
3. **Reservation of seats for Kashmiri Migrants (KM) and Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwD) are as per Government of India rules.**
4. Candidates in final year/semester are also eligible to apply.
5. Only GATE and CEED qualified candidates (in appropriate branch) having valid Score Card shall be eligible for the scholarship.
6. Sponsored candidates from Government organizations, quasi-Government organizations, PSUs shall apply separately through the websites of respective Institutions.

For any clarifications, candidates may contact: jaappg2026@spa.ac.in

Registrar, SPA, Delhi
JAAP PG 2026, Host Institution

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 31	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 18:51	SET 05:30
MONDAY, JUN. 01	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 19:44	SET 06:18
TUESDAY, JUN. 02	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:43
RISE 20:34	SET 07:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	33	22
Bengaluru	32	23

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be slight warm. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Writer S.G. Siddaramaiah, actor Jaimala among honorary doctorate awardees of Nrupathunga varsity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Writer S.G. Siddaramaiah and veteran actor and president of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) Jaimala and four other dignitaries will be conferred with honorary doctorate degrees at Nrupathunga University's second and third annual convocation.

Civil engineer and technical expert for irrigation projects K. Jaiprakash, former chairman of Karnataka Nataka Academy Srinivas G. Kappanna, retired IPS officer S. Mariswamy, and Jawahar Bal Bhavan Society secretary Nischal B.H. are also on the honorary doctorate list.

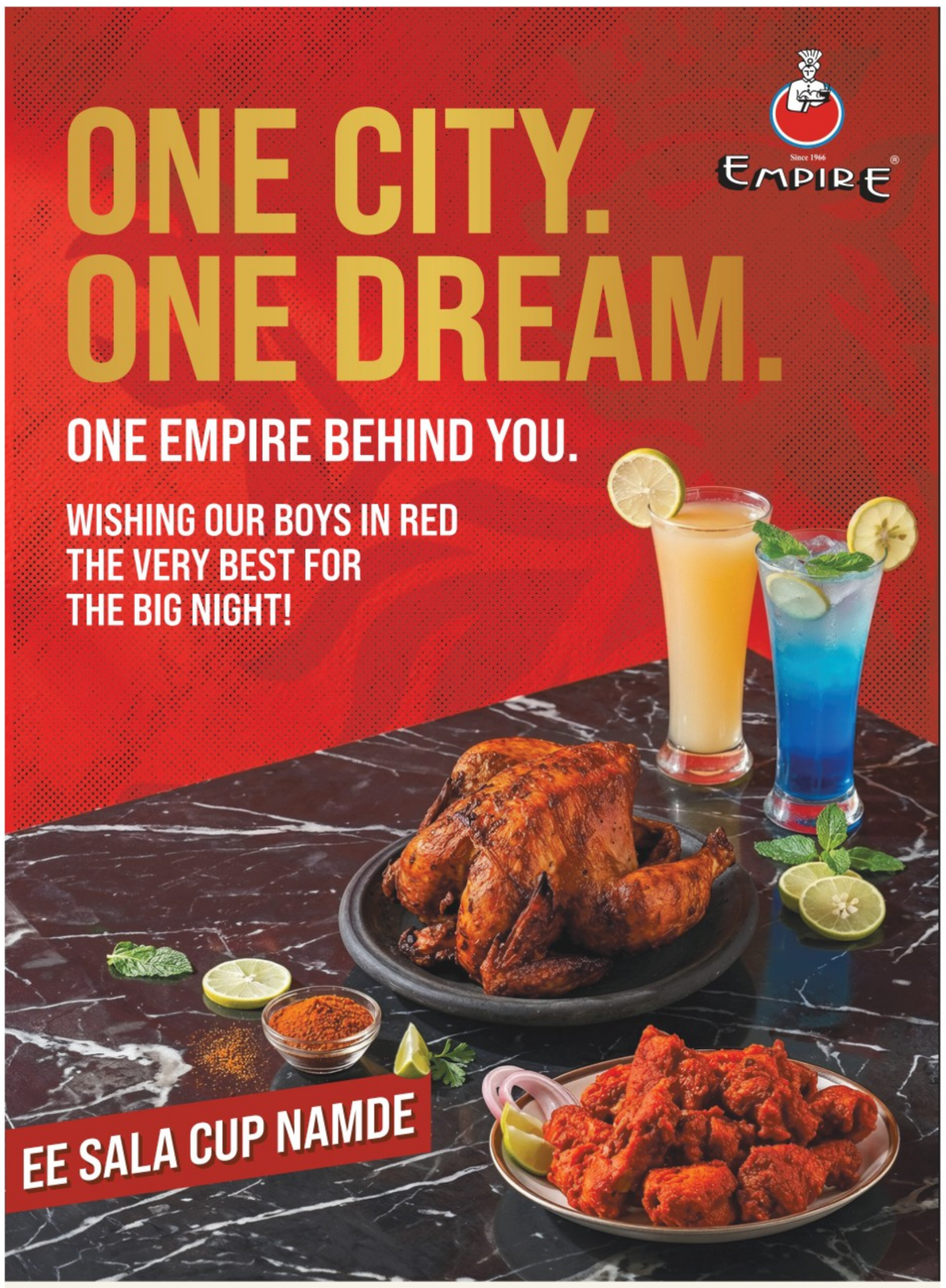
A view of Nrupathunga University. FILE PHOTO

Governor and Chancellor of the University, Thaawarchand Gehlot, will present the honorary doctorates at a function on June 2, in Jnanajyothi auditorium, Bengaluru.

H.S. Raghavendra Rao, critic and literary theoretician, will deliver the convocation address. M.C. Sudhakar, former Minister of Higher Education, will be part of the ceremony.

Governor and Chancellor of the University, Thaawarchand Gehlot, will present the honorary doctorates

On the occasion, 18 gold medals and rank certificates will be distributed. A total of 1,081 students who completed their Bachelor's (BSc., BCA) and Postgraduate (MSc) degrees in the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 will be conferred with degrees.



After 34 years of spotless service, Joseph Machado bids adieu to the wheel

Anil Kumar Sastry
MANGALURU

Joseph Machado driving the Mumbai-Mangaluru Airavat Club Class, on Friday.

After 34 years behind the wheel, including 22 years on the Volvo fleet of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Joseph Machado of Udyavara-Udupi hung up his keys on Saturday. Mr. Machado will retire with a spotless service record. One among the first batch of drivers chosen to drive the Volvo class of buses when KSRTC introduced them in 2002 in Bengaluru, and subsequently in Mangaluru, Mr. Machado drove varied classes of premium services. Ferrying thousands of passengers safely with a smile on his face, Mr. Machado was accorded a warm farewell by his fan-passengers and colleagues a day before his retirement when driving the Mumbai-Mangaluru Airavat Club Class on Friday. He told *The Hindu* that he joined the corporation in 1992. He was posted at the Kundapur depot, and began by driving the Kollur-Chennai Rajahamsa service.

From 2008, he was shifted to the Mangaluru depot, driving the Mangaluru-Chennai Airavat, Mangaluru-Mumbai Airavat, and later the Mangaluru-Pune Ambari Utsav services. His last duty was driving the Mumbai-Mangaluru Airavat Club Class bus on Friday.He recalled the love and cooperation of his colleagues, including Mangaluru Senior Divisional Controller Rajesh Shetty.

'State logs gains in maternal, child health'

Karnataka records near-universal institutional deliveries, with 98.7% of births taking place in health facilities, up from 97% in NFHS-5

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The survey shows high coverage of maternal health services, with 97.6% of registered pregnancies receiving a mother and child protection card and 95.9% of mothers protected against neonatal tetanus.

Karnataka has registered improvements across several key maternal and child health indicators over the past five years, with higher antenatal care coverage, institutional deliveries, skilled birth attendance and immunisation rates, according to the National Family Health Survey-6 (NFHS-6), 2023-24.

At the same time, the survey indicates that child malnutrition continues to pose a challenge, even though some nutrition indicators have improved compared with that of the NFHS-5 (2019-21).

The State recorded near-universal institutional deliveries, with 98.7% of births taking place in health facilities, up from 97% in NFHS-5. Deliveries attended by skilled health personnel increased to 96.6% from 93.8%.

Maternal health

Maternal healthcare coverage also showed improvement. The proportion of women receiving antenatal care during the first trimester rose from 71% to 82.4%, while the proportion of mothers receiving at least four antenatal check-ups increased from 70.9% to 84.5%.

Maternal nutrition indicators registered substantial gains. The percentage of pregnant women who consumed iron and folic acid tablets for at least 100 days nearly doubled from 44.7% in NFHS-5 to 78.0% in NFHS-6.

The survey indicates that child malnutrition continues to pose a challenge, even though some nutrition indicators have improved

Similarly, the proportion consuming supplements for at least 180 days increased from 26.7% to 66.4%.

The survey also showed high coverage of maternal health services, with 97.6% of registered pregnancies receiving a mother and child protection card and 95.9% of mothers protected against neonatal tetanus.

C-sections rise

One of the notable findings of the survey is the considerable rise in Caesarean section deliveries. Overall, 45.7% of births in Karnataka were delivered through Caesarean section, up from 31.5% in NFHS-5.

The rate was considerably higher in urban areas, where 52.6% of births were delivered through C-section, compared with 40.2% in rural areas. Caesarean deliveries accounted for 63.8% of births in private hospitals, against 34% in public health facilities.

Exclusive breastfeeding among infants below six months improved marginally from 61% in NFHS-5 to 61.6% in NFHS-6.

Immunisation coverage

Child health indicators showed encouraging progress. Full immunisation coverage among children aged 12 to 23 months increased from 84.3% in NFHS-5 to 90.2% in NFHS-6. Coverage of individual vaccines also remained high, with 95.6% of children receiving a measles-containing vaccine and 79.4% receiving the second dose of the vaccine.

Rajani B.N., State Project Director, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), said regular reviews and close monitoring are crucial to improving immunisation coverage. "We have been consistently reviewing data through the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and following up on cases that require attention. Every child must be tracked to ensure completion of the vaccination schedule, including follow-up doses after birth and at subsequent stages," she said.

Pointing out that monitoring mechanisms at the micro level is particularly important, especially in reaching children in hard-to-reach and vulnerable areas, Dr. Rajani said sustained follow-up by health staff has helped improve coverage over time.

"Even when vaccinations are delayed, it is better that children receive them late rather than miss them altogether. The focus should be on ensuring that no eligible child is left out of the immunisation programme," she said.

Nutrition indicators presented a mixed picture. The prevalence of stunting – low height for age – among children under five years declined significantly from 35.4% in NFHS-5 to 26.5% in NFHS-6, indicating a reduction in chronic undernutrition. The proportion of underweight children also fell from 32.9% to 27.8%.

Wasting among children under five, an indicator of acute undernutrition, declined only marginally from 19.5% to 18.7%, suggesting that acute malnutrition continues to remain a public health concern. Feeding practices among young children continued to require attention. Only 14.2% of children aged six to 23 months received an adequate diet, though this was an improvement from 10.6% recorded in NFHS-5. The proportion receiving a minimum acceptable diet increased from 12.4% to 18.3%.

At a glance

Indicator	NFHS-5 (%)	NFHS-6 (%)
Institutional deliveries	97.0	98.7
Skilled birth attendance	93.8	96.6
First-trimester antenatal care (ANC*)	71.0	82.4
Four or more ANC visits	70.9	84.5
Pregnant women taking IFA tablets for 100+ days	44.7	78.9
Full immunisation (children aged 12–23 months)	84.3	90.2
Stunted children under five	35.4	26.5
Underweight children under five	32.9	27.8
Wasted children under five	19.5	18.7
Caesarean-section deliveries	31.5	45.7

*Antenatal care

TOWN PANCHAYAT SHEDBAL
No/TPS/PWD/E-proc-14/2026-27 Dated: 01-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Shedbal invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for 01 work approved under Rs.146.00 Crore Amrut 2.0 Scheme. For more details visit online website (https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Any Addendum/Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public procurement portal only.

1. Last date for Queries : 11-06-2026 upt ot 5.00 PM. 2 Pre-bid meeting 12-06-2026 at 11.00 AM in Office of the Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Shedbal. 3. Last date for receipt of tender : 18-06-2026 upt ot 4.00 PM. 4. Date for opening of technical bid: 20-06-2026 at 11.00 AM in Office of the Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Shedbal. 5. Date for opening of financial bid :23-06-2026 at 11.00 AM in Office of the Chief Officer, Town Panchayat Shedbal.

Sd/-(Shri K . K. Gavade) Chief Officer Town Panchayat Shedbal
Sd/-(Shri Utkarsh. Bharatesh. Patil) President Town Panchayat Shedbal

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-345/KSMCA/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/WMC-1/SWM (KLR)/4/2022/2026-27/826 Date: 30.05.2026

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

Town Municipal Council, Srinivasapura has proposed to setting up of Municipal Solid Waste Processing Plant (MSWPP) of capacity 15.37 TPD at Sy. No. 45, in an extent area of 5.03 Acres at Yeladur Village, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka.

As Per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification dated: 14.09.2006 and Amendment dated: 01.12.2009, the project proponent has to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SLEIAA), Karnataka and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing (EPH) process. As per the Terms of Reference letter No. SEIAA 12 IND 2024, dated: 16.05.2025 of State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority - Karnataka and request letter of the Town Municipal Council, Srinivasapura dated: 09.01.2026, the EPH is scheduled on **01.07.2026.**

The details of the proposed new project are as follows:

1. Name of the local body & Address: Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Srinivasapura, Kolar District.

2. Proposed location of the project : Sy. No. 45, Yeladur Village, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka.

3. Details of project proposed : Proposed to setting up of Municipal Solid Waste Municipal Solid Waste Processing Plant (MSWPP) of capacity 15.37 TPD at Sy. No. 45, in an extent area of 5.03 Acres at Yeladur Village, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka.

4. Date, time and venue of Public hearing: 01.07.2026 Wednesday at 10.30 AM at Sy. No. 45, Yeladur Village, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District, Karnataka.

5. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District. **(b)** Chief Executive Officer, Kolar Zilla Panchayat, Kolar District. **(c)** District Industries Centre, Kolar District. **(d)** Taluk Panchayath Office, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District **(e)** Tahasildar Office, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District **(f)** City Municipal Council, Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District **(g)** Office of the Senior Environmental Officer-**Bengaluru East,** Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, 1st Floor, Nisarga Bhavan, 7th D Main, Thimmaiah Road, Shivanagar, Saneguruvanahalli, Bengaluru – 560079 **(h)** Office of the Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Kolar, Plot No. 14 'B', KIADB Indl Area, Bethamangala Road, Tamaka, Kolar -563101. **(I)** Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, South Zone Office, E-3/240, Kendriya Sadan, 4th Floor, E&F Wings, 17th Main Road, 2nd Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560 034. **(j)** HELP DESK, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site who are likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited, within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee **(Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District).** Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: http://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/381/2026-27 Date: 30.05.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that below mentioned tender notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/08/2026-27 issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 27.05.2026 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1
BSWML

DIPR/CP/912/AKAR/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client negotiating to purchase all that property described in the Schedule herein from MR. JAYARAJ MADATHIL, who claim to be the owner of the Schedule Property.Any person or persons ascertaining any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof and in any manner whatsoever against the Schedule Property based on the documents pertaining to the Schedule Property or objecting for the proposed development may lodge their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within 7 (Seven) days from the date of this publication and objections and/or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client/s and my client/s will proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no objections/claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the 2BHK Residential Apartment No.203, Second Floor in Block 'A' of Tower- 2 in `CANDEUR-CARLISLE', constructed on Survey No. 192, Survey No.195/1 and Survey No. 195/2 totally measuring 2 Acre 35 Guntas (1,25,235 Square Feet), situated at Mahadevapura Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (Earlier Bangalore South Taluk), Bangalore, and apartment measuring 802.40 Sq. Feet of carpet area and 377.6 Sq. Feet of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases, Balcony and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1180 Sq. Feet of super built up area with right to use One Covered Car Parking Space in the Basement Floor, presently bearing property E-PID No. 1841664055 Property No. 266/195/1/195/2/SF-203 in records of Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC), under GBA.

ROOPA SHETTY, Advocate
Lex Situs, No.810, 'BILWAPRIYA PLATINA', 2nd Floor, 27th Main Road, HSR Layout, Sector 1, Bangalore - 560102.
Phone: 9902026199 and 8088731020; Email:info@lexsitus.com

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

No.: ACF/Tender/CR-01/2026-27 Date: 27.05.2026

Short-Term e-Tender Notice
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

Short-Term Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from interested Forest contractors registered in Forest Department as Forest contractors for the year 2026-27 and having experience of growing saplings of various sizes, plantation advance works and having experience of carrying out similar works as put to tender in the Forest Department and having necessary facility for growing of saplings in the limits of the zone where works have to be carried out for implementation of "Advance Works" (including growing ofsaplings) in the limits of various Forest Zones of Shivamogga Regional Forest Division including Change of places of work implementation and changes in types mentioned in e-procurement portal under various Head of Account based on expected Grant for the year 2026-27. Last date for submission of Tenders is fixed as: 12.06.2026 up to 4.00 PM. For further information this office can be contacted during office hours and details of the Tender can be obtained through the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ayanur Sub Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/132/05/300

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: CEE/Tr(Op)ZB/SEE(O)/AEE-3/F-314/GBR/2026-27/1733-34 Dated 26.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites bid against the enquiry **No: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/TTK-12(Call-4)** for "Replacement of twisted tower No. 53 and 54 by providing new 2 No's. of 110kV,DC, NBT KPTCL Design DC+0 towers with coyote ACSR conductor in the existing corridor of **66kV Puttenahalli – Kanasawadi** (DG-II) S/C line near Hesaraghatta Farm, Muthkur Village Limits in TLM Section, TLM Sub-division, KPTCL, Operation division, Doddaballapura **on Total Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials / equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/ equipments, testing and commissioning".

The bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging onto **KPP Portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 08.06.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, A.R Circle, Bengaluru.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ)
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು-562110,
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: : dudc_blr@yahoo.co.in, dudc.blrrural@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿನಕೋ/ಬೆಂ.ಗ್ರಾ/ಅಮೃತ-ನ-4/ಹೊ.ಸ/೩.ಆರ್/02/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಮೃತ್ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ (ಮುನಿಸಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ) ಹಂತ–4ರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹನೊಂದಾಯಿತ Class-1 ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ಮೂಲಕ ನಿಗಧಿತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಭೂಗತ ಕೇಬಲ್ (ಯು.ಜಿ ಕೇಬಲ್)ಅಳವಡಿಸಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಟಿ.ಜಿ.ಬಡಾವಣೆಯಿಂದ ಗೌತಮ್‌ಕಾಲೋನಿಯವರೆಗೆ, ಕುರುಬರ ಪೇಟೆಯಿಂದ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ತಿಗಳರ ಪೇಟೆವರೆಗೆ. ಪ್ರವಾಸಿ ಮಂದಿರದಿಂದ ಅಯ್ಯಪ್ಪ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಟಾಲಮ್ಮ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪಶು ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕಂಬಗಳ ಬದಲಾಯಿಸಿ ಟ್ಯೂಬುಲಾರ್ ಕಂಬಗಳನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (ಹಂತ–1), ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT 58902, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡು): 501.00/–(ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ), ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ): 424.57/–(ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ), ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: 6.37/–(ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ), ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.06.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 05:30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 05:30 ಗಂಟೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು KPPP Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ ಕಛೇರಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹಗೊಂಡ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ KPPP Procurement Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/908/ಕಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, 2nd Floor, 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560 010.

EE/SD/KPPP/01/2026-27 Date: 29-05-2026

TENDER CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Sub: This Office Tender Notice No. EE/SD/TEND/02/2026-27, Date : 27.04.2026. Corrigendum Notice.

With reference to the above tender notification, No.EE/SD/TEND/02/2026-27, Date: 27-04-2026 it is hereby informed that schedule of dates has been modified as per below details:

Present in Tender Notification Calendar of events. (1) Date and Time of Tender Closing on : **06.06.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (2)** Date and Time of opening of Technical Bid on : **08.06.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (3)** Date and Time of opening of Financial Bid on: **09.06.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** (if possible).

The other terms and essential conditions remain the same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Divison, BWCC.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Manchanabele Project Division,
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2727 1259. E-mail : eempdrmgm@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 02/2026-27 Date : 29-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The CNNL hereby invites **Tender for the Different kinds of Works** under 4701 and 2701 Head for Emergent and Service Tender Works through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal.

The Last Date for Tender Submission, Opening of Financial Bid Dates, EMD details and more Information can be Downloaded from the Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal and for further information please visit Office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, C.N.N.L., M. P. Division, Bangalore South District, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/71/Manipal/2026-27

CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED., CHIKKABALLAPURA

Admns off: Yaluvahalli, Nandi Cross, Doddamarali Post, NH-44, Chikkaballapura – 562 103.

GST:: 29AAFAC7468L2Z1 Email ID:chimulpurchase@gmail.com

IFT No. CHIMUL/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 840 /2026-27 Date: 29.05.2026

**** E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION ****

The Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Chikkaballapura invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl. No.	Description of Material	Qty
I	**Supply of Thermoform Machine Packing Material to Pack Paneer Thermoform pack variants for a period of one year to Mega Dairy, Chikkaballapura**	
01	Top Web film Roll for 200gms Paneer Thermoform Pack	4,000 Kg's
02	Top Web film Roll for 500gms Paneer Thermoform Pack	1,500 Kg's
03	Top Web film Roll for 1 Kg Paneer Thermoform Pack	1,000 Kg's
04	Bottom Web film Roll for 200gms Paneer Thermoform Pack	7,500 Kg's
05	Bottom Web film Roll for 500gms & 1 Kg Paneer Thermoform Pack	4,000 Kg's

Access to E-tender Documents : 30.05.2026 to 15.06.2026 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 15.06.2026 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 17.06.2026, 11.00 AM onwards

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.

Sd/-
Managing Director.
Chikkaballapura Milk Union Ltd., Chikkaballapura.

Govt. of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand 25 Silver Jubilee Year

GAURAV, VIKAS AUR SANKALP KA PARV

Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI

Divine and Majestic

Chardham Yatra

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL DEVOTEES

SPIRITUAL AND NATURAL ATTRACTIONS NEAR THE CHAR DHAM ROUTE

1 Near Yamunotri

Janki Chatti & Hanuman Chatti, Kharsali Village, Saptarishi Kund, Lakhamandal, Kedarkantha Trek, Rana Chatti.

2 Near Kedarnath

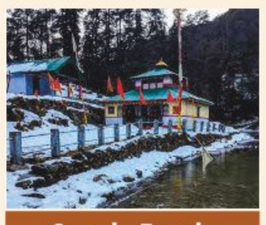
Bhairavnath Temple, Vasuki Tal, Gaurikund, Triyuginarayan Temple, Chopta - Tungnath - Chandra Shila, Deoria Tal.

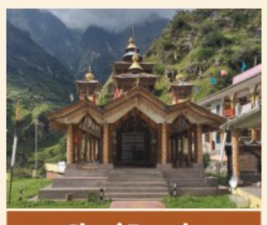
3 Near Gangotri

Gaumukh Trek, Bhojbasa & Tapovan, Surya Kund & Gauri Kund, Harsil Valley, Mukhimath (Mukhba), Dayara Bugyal Trek, Gartang Gali, Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Uttarkashi), Nachiketa Tal & Dodital.

4 Near Badrinath

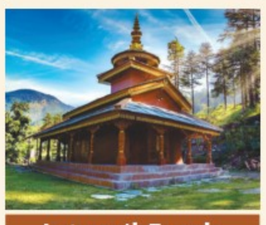
Mana Village, Vyas Gufa & Ganesh Gufa, Bhimsila, Auli, Valley of Flowers, Vasudhara Falls, Charanpaduka, Tapt Kund & Narad Kund, Jyotirmath (Joshimath), Satopanth Lake, Pandukeshwar, Adibadri Temple, Hemkund Sahib.


Ganesha Temple
Dodital Uttarkashi

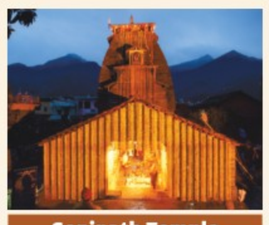

Shani Temple
Kharsali Uttarkashi

Kandolia Temple
Pauri Garhwal

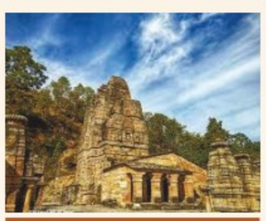
Kartik Swamy Temple
Rudraprayag


Jagannath Temple
Uttarkashi

Jawalpa Devi Temple
Pauri Garhwal


Gopinath Temple
Gopeshwar, Chamoli

Kamleshwar Mahadev Temple
Srinagar Pauri Garhwal


Katarmal Sun Temple
Almora

Jageshwar Dham
Almora

Golu Devta Temple
Almora

Dunagiri Temple
Dwarahat, Almora

"The Honourable Prime Minister has termed the third decade of the 21st century as the 'Decade of Uttarakhand.' In line with the Prime Minister's vision, we are working with an 'unwavering commitment' (Vikalp Rahit Sankalp) to make the state an ideal state in every field."

Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Important Information

Mandatory Registration: Registration is compulsory before commencing the Yatra.
Verify Contact Details: Please ensure you enter the correct mobile number during registration.
Be Prepared for Weather: Carry adequate woolen clothes, an umbrella, and a raincoat.
Accurate Health Data: Provide precise health information during the registration process.
Senior Citizen Advisory: Senior citizens are advised to undergo a medical check-up before starting the journey.
Medication: If you are on prescribed medication, carry a sufficient stock of your medicines.
Acclimatisation: Take frequent breaks at various transit points along the route to acclimatize to the high-altitude climate.
Health First: If you feel unwell, please do not proceed with the journey.
Beware of Scams: Avoid unauthorised individuals claiming to facilitate 'Darshan' at the shrines.
Keep Tracks Clean: Cooperate with us in keeping the pilgrimage routes clean; do not litter.
Safe Driving: Maintain controlled vehicle speed and park only in designated parking areas.
No Plastic: Strictly avoid the use of single-use plastic.

Modes of Registration

Visit the website or scan the QR Code:
registrationandtouristcare.uk.gov.in

Download the App
touristcareuttarakhand
Google Play | App Store

FOR ANY ASSISTANCE.
PLEASE CONTACT OUR 24X7
TOLL FREE NUMBER:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
PHONE:
0135-2552627
0135-2559898
E-MAIL:
touristcare.uttarakhand@gmail.com

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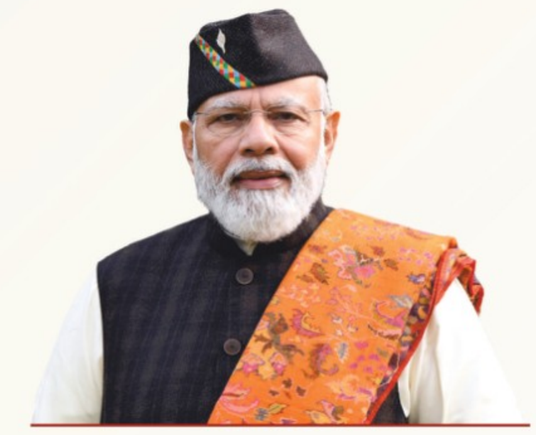
@DIPR_UK



My dear Countrymen,

The sacred Chardham Yatra has commenced in the holy land of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand. This divine pilgrimage to the four shrines, including the darshan of Baba Kedar, is a magnificent celebration of India's eternal (Sanatan) cultural consciousness. Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya gave a new direction to Indian culture through his pilgrimages to Badrinath and Kedarnath. Similarly, Jagadguru Ramanujacharya and Jagadguru Madhvacharya also visited Badrinath to enrich their spiritual philosophies.

Even today, these four shrines nestled in the lap of the Himalayas remain divine centers of our eternal faith and belief. Every year, people belonging to diverse languages, traditions, and cultures come here, further strengthening the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. This year's Yatra is an extension of that very tradition.

Our scriptures state:

अग्निष्टोमादिभिर्यज्ञैरिष्ट्वा विपुलदक्षिणैः।
न तत्फलमवाप्नोति तीर्थाभिगमनेन यत्॥

Meaning: The immense merit (Punya) earn through grand Yagyas (sacrificial rituals) and charity is profound. However, the merit obtained through a pilgrimage (Tirtha Yatra) is even greater than that gained through those rituals.

In the resolve for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), the role of a 'Viksit Uttarakhand' is extremely vital. A few years ago, at the gateway of Baba Kedar, I had said that this decade would be the 'Decade of Uttarakhand.' Today, the progress of Uttarakhand is turning that belief into reality. Uttarakhand is setting new benchmarks in all three sectors: tourism, spirituality, and economic growth.

The great ritual of development (Vikas ka Mahayagya) that has been underway in Uttarakhand for the past few years has made the Chardham Yatra more accessible, safer, and divine than ever before. This is providing great convenience to the visiting devotees, saints, and tourists. In all these efforts, every care is being taken to preserve the natural beauty of Uttarakhand.

I would also urge every guest visiting Uttarakhand to truly enjoy this new experience. During your journey, I encourage all travellers to observe a "Digital Fast" and strive to live within the natural beauty of Uttarakhand. This will provide you with a unique sense of satisfaction.

Historically, we have always traveled from our homes to Devbhoomi for the Chardham Yatra with a specific resolve. In this spirit, I wish to urge you to take Five Resolves (Panch Sankalp):

First Resolve – Cleanliness is Paramount: Maintain cleanliness within and around the shrines. Contribute your part to keeping the rivers clean. Take a pledge for a journey free of single-use plastic and uphold the dignity of this sacred land.

Second Resolve – Sensitivity towards Nature and Environment: Be sensitive toward this divine Himalayan land. While maintaining the balance of nature, contribute to environmental conservation through initiatives like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in Mother's Name).

Third Resolve – Emphasis on Service, Cooperation, and Unity: Since ancient times, our pilgrimages have been a medium for universal service and social harmony. Even today, people serve pilgrims with this same spirit. I urge every pilgrim visiting the Chardham to perform at least one act of service every day of their journey. Help your fellow travellers and connect with people coming from different parts of the country. By participating in their traditions, strengthen the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' through this pilgrimage.

Fourth Resolve – Promoting 'Vocal for Local': From the time you leave your home until you return, ensure that you spend at least five percent of your total travel budget on purchasing local products. Even if a local item is not immediately needed in this season, try to buy it for future use.

Fifth Resolve – Adherence to Discipline, Safety, and Decorum: Follow the rules of the journey and traffic instructions. As a responsible and alert citizen, make this pilgrimage safe and accessible. Let us ensure that our journey does not cause any inconvenience to the people involved in the organisation and management of this Yatra.

In recent years, a large number of creators and influencers have started visiting the Chardham. I urge all of you to make an effort to share the local stories of Uttarakhand and its small, unique traditions with the masses.

May the blessings of Baba Kedar and all the four shrines infuse your life with new energy, new inspiration, and new resolutions. This is my wish for you.

My heartiest best wishes to all of you for a successful, safe, divine, and soulful journey.

Yours

Narendra Modi

Panch Kedar
1. Kedarnath
2. Tungnath
3. Rudranath
4. Madhmaheshwar
5. Kalpeswar

Panch Prayag
1. Devprayag
2. Rudraprayag
3. Karnprayag
4. Nandprayag
5. Vishnuprayag

Panch Badri
1. Vishal Badri
2. Yogdarshan Badri
3. Bhavya Badri
4. Vradha Badri
5. Aadi Badri

Use only the official portal for Helicopter Bookings To Avoid any Fraud
www.heliyatra.irctc.co.in

During the Chardham Yatra, you can also visit and experience the divine Panch Kedar, Panch Prayag and Panch Badri. In the Panch Badri, Lord Vishnu is worshipped in various unique forms

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www.uttarainformation.gov.in | DIPR_UK | UttarakhandDIPR | UttarakhandDIPR

Curiosity grows over formation of new Cabinet

CM-designate D.K. Shivakumar is expected to visit New Delhi soon for consultations with high command on Ministry formation, appointment of Deputy CMs, and selection of Assembly Speaker

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

With D.K. Shivakumar set to assume office as Chief Minister on Wednesday, curiosity is growing over the composition of the new Cabinet, a process expected to involve intense political negotiations and considerations of regional, caste, and factional representation within the ruling Congress.

Sources in the party indicated that 8 to 10 legislators are likely to be sworn in as Ministers along with Mr. Shivakumar, with representation being given to major castes and communities. A full-fledged Cabinet is expected to be constituted after the elections to four Rajya Sabha seats and seven Legislative Council seats on June 18.

Youth and experience

With an eye on the upcoming local body elections and the 2028 Assembly polls, the party high command is expected to strike a balance between youth and experience, as well as continuity and change.

Legislators whose names are being discussed for induction into the Cabinet include G. Parameshwara, U.T. Khader, Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Priyank Kharge, Rizwan Arshad, M.B. Patil, K.J. George, B.S. Suresha, Krishna Byre Gowda, M. Roopakala (daughter of K.H. Muniyappa), A.S. Ponnanna, Sharath Bache Gowda, and H.C. Balakrishna.

Though Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is understood to favour a major reshuffle of the State Cabinet, outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is believed to have suggested to the party leadership that several senior leaders who served in his Cabinet be accommodated in the new Ministry.

Likely to be dropped

More than half of the Ministers in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet are likely to be dropped. Senior legislators such as H.C. Mahadevappa, Shivanand Patil, Sharanabasappa Darshanapur, Rahim Khan, R.B. Thimmapur, K. Venkatesh, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, and M.C. Sudhakar are among those whose continuation is uncertain, claimed sources.

With Mr. Khader keen on joining the Cabinet, the names of senior legislators such as T.B. Jayachandra and H.K. Patil are also being discussed for the Speaker's post.

Deputy CMs?

There is still no clarity on the appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers.

While some Central leaders have reportedly opposed the move, arguing that it could create parallel power centres and cause resentment among senior Ministers, others believe the appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers could help the party broaden its social and regional appeal ahead of future elections.

As Mr. Shivakumar is expected to relinquish the KPCC president's post, more than half a dozen leaders are said to be lobbying for the position. Names doing the rounds include former Ministers Satish Jarkiholi, Eshwar B. Khandre, Santosh Lad, Appaji Nadagouda, and Shivaraj Tangadagi.

Party leaders said the Cabinet formation exercise would take into account administrative experience, electoral performance, and organisational contributions.

While retaining experienced faces could ensure administrative continuity and stability, the induction of new Ministers would signal political renewal under Mr. Shivakumar's leadership.

Social representation is also expected to be a key consideration, with the party likely to ensure adequate representation for major communities, minorities, and women.

The Cabinet formation exercise could provide an opportunity to reward loyalists who stood by Mr. Shivakumar during his long political journey, while simultaneously accommodating the leaders who are aligned with Mr. Siddaramaiah to maintain unity within the Congress party.

Visit to Delhi

Mr. Shivakumar is expected to visit New Delhi shortly for consultations with the high command on Cabinet formation, the appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers, and the selection of the Assembly Speaker.

The final shape of the Cabinet is expected to emerge after these consultations. As the new government prepares to take charge, the composition of the Ministry will be closely watched for indications of the administration's priorities and the evolving power equations within the Congress.

Congress leaders during the CLP meeting at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday.

'Step into national politics'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The party high command that encouraged outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to enter national politics by asking him to step down to pave way for a power transition, again broached the topic in the Congress Legislature Party meeting held at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday.

"K.C. Venugopal (All India Congress Committee general secretary), while appreciating the contribution of Mr. Siddaramaiah to the party, patted the latter and said the party would utilise him both at the State and national level. The party said Mr. Siddaramaiah should help the Congress come back to power at the Centre in the 2029 general elections," a leader who was part of the meeting said.

On his part, Mr. Siddaramaiah has insisted that he will not go to national politics and would serve the remaining two years as a legislator. Speaking at a press conference after announcing his decision to step down earlier in the week, he declared that he would continue in active politics in the State.

"The Congress high command asked me to go to Rajya Sabha. But with humility, I have told them that I am not interested in national politics and that I want to continue in State politics," he said.

Core committee to be formed?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To build consensus on contentious issues such as the implementation of the caste survey, senior leaders are believed to have mooted the idea of forming a coordination committee headed by outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Siddaramaiah had headed a similar committee during the JD(S)-Congress coalition government in 2018-19. The committee's objective is to ensure that key decisions are taken through consensus in the government.

Set to be a simple swearing-in ceremony

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The decision to hold the swearing-in ceremony at Glass House in Lok Bhavan, instead of converting it into a spectacle drawing large crowds from elsewhere, was taken to prevent ostentation at the time of the oil crisis, party sources said. They added that it was also aimed at not causing inconvenience to the public. The party, while asking its workers to desist from arriving in hordes to the State capital, has also announced that no passes will be issued except for legislators.

Tungabhadra Dam gets new lease of life

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

When Crest Gate No. 19 of the Tungabhadra Dam near Hosapete was washed away late on August 10, 2024, it triggered panic among lakhs of farmers dependent on the reservoir for irrigation.

The massive reservoir, considered the lifeline of north Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, was then brimful with 105.788 tmcft of water at the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 1,633 feet. Within minutes of the chain link snapping, nearly 35,000 cusecs of water began gushing uncontrollably through the damaged bay. Engineers scrambled to open the remaining gates to reduce pressure on the structure even as fears mounted downstream.

What began as a terrifying engineering emergency soon evolved into one of the biggest dam rehabilitation exercises undertaken in recent years. The crisis triggered intense technical efforts, political attention, farmers' anxiety and inter-State coordination. Nearly two years later, it has culminated in the replacement of all the 33 crest gates. The old ones operated through an overhead bridge mechanism involving chains, gearboxes, motors, and counterweights. For nearly seven decades, the gates functioned without major overhauling.

When the gates gave way in 2024, experts from Hyderabad, Chennai, and Bengaluru, along with engineers from JSW Steel and local fabrication companies, began working. Hydro-mechanical expert N. Kannaiah Naidu emerged as a key figure in the operation, preparing designs and technical drawings for the temporary stop-log arrangement.

The operation itself was extremely risky as the engineers had to work amid powerful currents and fluctuating discharge conditions.

The massive Tungabhadra Reservoir is considered the lifeline of north Karnataka and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. FILE PHOTO

A 70-year-old system under stress

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The Tungabhadra Dam, an inter-State project involving Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, was commissioned in the early 1950s, while the crest gates were installed in 1955. The project irrigates over 16.38 lakh acres of land – 9.26 lakh acres in Karnataka, 6.25 lakh acres in Andhra Pradesh, and 87,000 acres in Telangana.

At the Full Reservoir Level of 1,633 feet, the Tungabhadra Reservoir was originally designed to store around 133 tmcft of water.

However, decades of heavy silt accumulation, which is estimated at nearly 33 tmcft at the rate of around 0.5 tmcft annually, have reduced its effective storage capacity to 105.788 tmcft. The spillway is designed to discharge up to 6.5 lakh cusecs.

The project irrigates 9.26 lakh acres in Karnataka, 6.25 lakh acres in Andhra Pradesh, and 87,000 acres in Telangana. FILE PHOTO

Against all odds, the engineers succeeded. On August 17, 2024, just seven days after the disaster, the team successfully installed the temporary stop-log gate made up of five massive steel elements. It prevented further catastrophic water loss.

Experts, who inspected the dam after the incident, advised comprehensive replacement of all the 33 crest gates. Following technical committee recommendations, the Tungabhadra Board decided to replace all 33 spillway gates. The Tungabhadra Board later entrusted the replacement work to Ahmedabad-based Hardware Tools & Machinery Projects Pvt. Ltd.

The large-scale replacement work gathered momentum in late 2025, involving the dismantling of old gates and erecting of new ones within a narrow working window. The dismantling and erection of all 33 gates were completed in 123 days, between December 24, 2025, and April 25, 2026.

The project also involved the replacement of 68 lifting chains and 100 bevel gear units. Though a detailed examination had found the existing chains to be structurally strong, the then Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar (now Chief Minister-designate), during his visit to the dam on May 3, 2026, said that the government had decided to replace all the chains as a precautionary measure. The total cost of replacing all 33 spillway gates, along with chain links and quality inspections, stood at around ₹51 crore.

Engineers associated with the project believe the comprehensive replacement of all the 33 crest gates has enhanced the structural safety of the dam and extended its operational life by another 50 years.

Soon, the government is planning to hold a huge public meeting inviting the farmers from the command area, especially from Koppal, Raichur and Ballari, to dedicate the renewed dam to the nation.

Foundation stone-laying for KPS cancelled

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Schools across Karnataka will reopen from Monday, and in the wake of the Cabinet dissolution following the resignation of the Chief Minister, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has cancelled the Karnataka Public School (KPS) foundation stone-laying ceremony that outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was supposed to preside over in Shivamogga on the same day.

The earlier planned mega parent-teacher meeting (PTM) with the Chief Minister, featuring live interaction with students and parents through video conference in all schools across the State, has also been cancelled.

Instead, school opening ceremonies will be held as usual across the State. Rashmi Mahesh, Principal Secretary of DSEL, and Vikas Kishor Suralkar, Commissioner of Public Instruction, will participate in the school reopening ceremony to be held in Bengaluru. "The school inauguration for the academic year 2026-27 in government and aided schools in the State will take place on Monday. The schools will be cleaned and decorated with flowers. Preparations have been made to organise a midday meal with sweets," said Mr. Suralkar.

There are more than 46,000 government and aided schools across the State. FILE PHOTO

Meanwhile, there are more than 46,000 government and aided schools across the State. The government is distributing free textbooks, two sets of uniforms, and shoes and socks, to all students from LKG to class 10.

Distribution of textbooks to schools is in progress, with the department already having delivered textbooks to about 95% of schools. "The free textbooks provided to students of government and aided schools will include Part-1 and Part-2. Part-1 books have already reached more than 95% of the schools. Part-2 textbooks will be delivered to all schools by the end of June. Sethubandha, a bridge course programme, will be held for the first month, for which no textbooks are required," said Mr. Suralkar.

The government has also given approval for the recruitment of 51,000 guest teachers for the 2026-27 academic year, with 40,000 for primary schools and 11,000 for high schools.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
29, IIE, Sahastradhara Road (IT Park), Dehradun
Phone No. 0135 – 2607292, 2708100, Web site : www.siidcul.com

NIT No:- 218/SIIDCUL/2026

E-Tender Notice

SIIDCUL invites online bids from interested bidders for allotment of 200 Acres (approximately 809400.00 sq.m.) of land for Industrial and Institutional purpose at Prag Farm, District Udhamsingh Nagar, Uttarakhand. The bidders must furnish complete information as per the procedure laid down in the bid document. Detailed bid document can be downloaded from website of SIIDCUL www.siidcul.com or www.uktenders.gov.in from 01.06.2026 to 15.06.2026. Further any corrigendum regarding the bid shall only be published in website only. Interested bidders can only submit the complete bid document on e-tendering website www.uktenders.gov.in on/or before mentioned due date i.e 15.06.2026 and time 14:00 hrs.

Managing Director

NOTICE INVITING BID

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in; Email: drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in

Bid Ref.No.:OSMCL/2026-27/DRUGS-DHS-ACD-GR-II/02 Date : 01/06/2026

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Anti Cancer Items (Group-II) as per the particulars mentioned below :

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	01/06/2026, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@od.gov.in	05/06/2026, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		08/06/2026, 3 PM	29/06/2026, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		30/06/2026, 10 AM	07/07/2026,11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	07/07/2026, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website https://osmcl.odisha.gov.in time to time for any published notice against the tender.

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha

10001/206/2627

OIPR-10001/10112/1/26-27/0002

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

SHOBHA WARRIER
31.05.1964 - 16.09.2022
Fondly Remembered
Rugmini Warrier (Mother)
KR Warrier (Husband 9444454175)
Aparna Warrier (Daughter)
Sudha Warrier (Sister 9731218409)

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Scientific test: The National Metallurgical Laboratory analysed over 30 samples from the temple's sanctum sanctorum door-frames. PTI

Forensic lab confirms 'substantial' gold theft at Sabarimala temple

The Hindu Bureau
KOLLAM

The forensic report from the National Metallurgical Laboratory (CSIR-NML) in Jamshedpur is learnt to have confirmed theft of 'substantial quantities' of gold from sanctum sanctorum of the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala, Kerala.

According to officials, the laboratory analysed a batch of more than 30 samples extracted from the temple's sanctum sanctorum door-frames (*Kattilappali*) while the results of another batch is awaited.

However, extracting definitive answers from the current document remains a challenge for investigators due to its highly technical nature. Officials noted that the report is written in dense, specialised scientific terminology, much like an intricate forensic autopsy. Since the document focusses strictly on raw scientific values and elemental profiles, the help of metallurgical experts will be sought.

"To establish total clarity, the SIT will have to employ experts to make the document intelligible. Deciphering these precise scientific metrics is crucial to determine the exact extent of the gold plating removed, the true weight of the stolen gold, and whether any underlying copper structuring was altered. Also, a secondary batch of samples sent to the laboratory is still awaiting final testing, and its subsequent report is expected to shed more light on the theft's timeline," the official said.

Solid scientific proof

The highly confidential forensic report has already been submitted to both Kollam Vigilance Court and the investigating officers. Reportedly, the SIT plans to comprehensively decode the scientific findings and brief the Kerala High Court on the precise mechanics of the theft. The report from the National Metallurgical Laboratory is the most important piece of evidence for the prosecution, replacing suspicion with solid scientific proof.

Five accused in attack on ED officials in Kerala denied bail

The 'attack' happened after search at former CM Pinarayi Vijayan's residence in connection with money-laundering allegations involving daughter Veena; six more held taking total arrests to 25

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Thiruvananthapuram Judicial First Class Magistrate Court-III on Saturday rejected the bail plea of five CPI(M) workers accused of attacking Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials and damaging vehicles during a search at former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's house in the city.

The accused – Sreejith, Jithinraj, Manoj, Jeevan, and Shahin – were remanded in custody after their bail plea was rejected. The defence's main contention was that the ED officials were not on duty when the incident occurred. The defence also argued that the vehicle that was attacked was not an official ED vehicle and, therefore, the charge of damaging public property would not stand.

Political flashpoint: CPI(M) supporters attacking the vehicle carrying ED officials on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

However, the prosecution contended that the officials had come to conduct a search and remained on duty until they returned to their office. Therefore, the charge of obstructing public servants in the discharge of duties was applicable.

It further argued that even if the vehicle had been hired on rent, it should still be treated as an official vehicle.

The ED officials were allegedly attacked by CPI(M) activists while returning after completing a search at the residence of Mr. Vijayan and his daughter T. Veena. The search was conducted in connection with money-laundering allegations involving Ms. Veena's now-defunct firm, Exalogic Solutions.

Meanwhile, six more accused were arrested in connection with the assault, taking the total number of arrests to 25 so far.

The police have registered a case against around 300 people who are suspected to have been involved in the attack.

Owner killed, worker sustains injuries in explosion at firecracker unit in Pudukottai

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUKOTTAI

The 54-year-old owner of a country firecracker manufacturing unit was killed and a worker sustained injuries in an explosion triggered by a fire at P. Azhagapuri near Thirumayam in Pudukottai district on Saturday afternoon.

The police said the deceased was identified as S. Karuppaiah of Pillamangalam, who had been operating the unit at Ponnazhagi Nagar in P. Azhagapuri for several years. Around five persons were employed at the unit.

The accident occurred when Karuppaiah and the worker, P. Braman, 50, were at the unit. A sudden fire reportedly broke out, causing the firecrackers and materials stored inside to explode.

Upon receiving information, 14 personnel from the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services (TNFRS) stations in Thirumayam and SIPCOT rushed to the spot. It took the firefighters nearly two hours to douse the blaze. A senior TNFRS official said Karuppaiah's body was blown to pieces in the blast, while Braman was rescued with severe injuries to his leg.

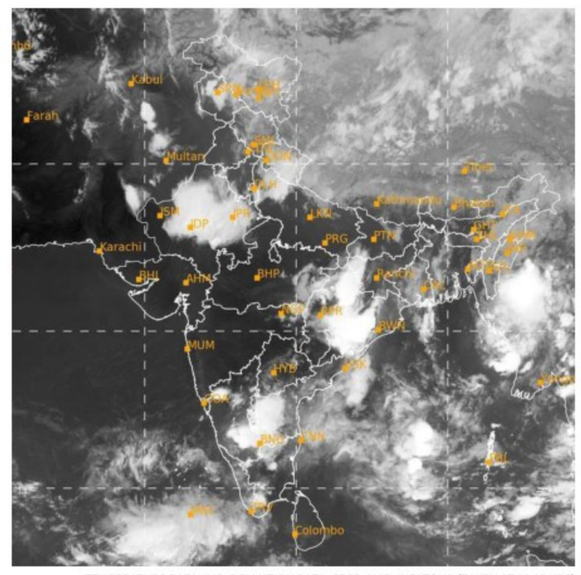
Following reports that more than five persons might have been trapped inside the unit, 108 ambulance services from Thirumayam, Pillaiyarpatti, and Arimalam were also mobilised. Brahman was shifted to a private hospital in Madurai for treatment.

Customers survive

The police said two persons from Karaikudi- identified as Vijayakumar and Vidhya- who had arrived at the unit in a car to purchase firecrackers, survived with minor injuries, and later returned to Karaikudi in the vehicle. The explosion caused panic in the locality. The police said the unit reportedly possessed a valid licence till 2028.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.5	25.3	Kurnool	—	38.9	28.2
Ahmedabad	—	40.0	29.4	Lucknow	—	34.0	24.5
Aizawl	—	31.8	20.2	Madurai	—	39.0	26.6
Bengaluru	46	31.8	19.8	Mangaluru	45	32.6	24.9
Bhopal	—	40.0	25.6	Mumbai	—	35.3	29.9
Bhubaneswar	—	37.6	22.7	Mysuru	25	32.0	19.2
Chandigarh	—	35.6	20.5	New Delhi	0.9	37.2	24.6
Chennai	—	37.1	28.5	Patna	13	32.6	23.0
Coimbatore	2	34.8	22.0	Port Blair	2	31.8	25.7
Dehradun	69	33.8	17.0	Prayagraj	—	35.8	24.6
Gangtok	0.5	22.5	16.2	Puducherry	—	36.2	27.6
Goa	11	35.1	28.5	Pune	—	36.7	27.0
Guwahati	—	36.5	24.6	Raipur	—	41.0	28.2
Hubballi	—	34.0	24.0	Ranchi	42	28.8	19.0
Hyderabad	—	39.3	28.7	Shillong	5	26.8	16.6
Imphal	—	27.4	23.0	Shimla	1	21.6	14.5
Jaipur	4	36.8	21.4	Srinagar	—	28.4	11.6
Kochi	90	30.8	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	7	31.9	25.4
Kohima	—	25.0	18.0	Tiruchirappalli	—	40.1	25.6
Kolkata	20	34.7	22.2	Vijayawada	—	35.6	29.5
Kozhikode	38	32.6	24.9	Visakhapatnam	—	34.2	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.25	.73	.39	56	136	
Bengaluru	5	8	.39	92	90	
Chennai	6	.14	.29	48	76	
Delhi	.17	.22	145	40	106	
Hyderabad	.15	.15	.37	65	87	
Kolkata	8	.24	.41	54	74	
Lucknow	.11	.13	.43	98	93	
Mumbai	.13	106	.28	36	51	
Pune	.17	.15	.38	26	50	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.26	.22	46	103	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwani, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 260 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Vizag prepares to secure ₹5,000-cr. Central fund

The Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER) has started preparations to secure the ₹5,000-crore Central fund allocated under the Union government's newly launched City Economic Region (CER) scheme.

Visakhapatnam is the only city from Andhra Pradesh and among the seven urban clusters chosen nationwide for the implementation of the scheme. It is also among the three cities chosen from the South India. To formalise the State's approach, a high-level VER delegation will meet Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat in Amaravati on June 2.

Revival of Sabari rail raises hopes in Central Travancore

After decades of uncertainty, the Sabari rail project is showing signs of revival, rekindling hopes among nearly 5,000 landowners in Kerala whose properties have remained under the shadow of acquisition for more than two decades. According to official sources, the detailed field survey and preparation of drawings and related documents are set to resume along the 70-km stretch of the proposed alignment. The renewed activity follows the State Cabinet's decision earlier this year to bear 50% of the project's estimated cost of ₹3,800 crore.

Patient dies under mysterious circumstances at A.P. hospital

A 49-year-old patient died at Government General Hospital in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, under mysterious circumstances on Saturday. According to hospital records, Srinivas, the deceased, had been undergoing treatment since May 23 after being admitted with multiple health complications. Sources said he had reportedly gone for morning ablutions and was later found injured on the ground floor. Police has launched a probe into the incident. Exact circumstances leading to the death remain unclear.

Rain check

The waiting game: Passengers crowd Thiruvananthapuram Central railway station after several trains were delayed following heavy downpour in the capital city on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Revanth set to adopt YSR's grassroots-level engagement model

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Evoking the governance of late Congress Telangana Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) in the early 2000s, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his Cabinet colleagues have decided to spend a day for party work from now on, as part of a revival of structured interactions between the leadership and grassroots cadre.

State Congress workers believe that the party should adopt a model similar to that of the former Chief Minister, who was known for dedicating a fixed portion of his day to meeting party workers and public. Mr. Revanth Reddy is expected to take a similar route once his proposed camp office is ready. The Chief Minister's residence, at present, is inadequate if party workers turn in in large numbers.

For the time being, he wants to make himself and Cabinet colleagues available in constituencies along with local MLAs. He indicated this at the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting at Gandhi Bhavan.

He has requested Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief Mahesh Goud to assign one constituency every week to him and the Ministers.

Sreedharan submits new report on green high-speed rail line

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The new interim report on a high-speed rail project, submitted by technocrat E. Sreedharan to the Kerala government on Friday, envisions connecting Thiruvananthapuram with Kannur in just three hours and 30 minutes, envisaging the project as the world's first green rail corridor.

The proposed Kerala High-Speed Railway (KHSR) line will start from Poojapura in the capital city and terminate at Mundayad in Kannur. The report has been submitted by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to both the Union Ministry of Railways and the State government.

The 473.2-km double line will have 23 stations. The line will connect three airports in Kerala, excluding the Kannur international airport. The average inter-station distance will be 21.5 km. The maximum design speed of the trains will be 200 kmph, while the maximum operational speed will be 180 kmph and the average commercial speed, 140 kmph.

The total cost is estimated at ₹60,000 crore, of which ₹36,000 crore will be contributed as equity by the Central and State governments in a 51:49 ratio. The remaining ₹24,000 crore is proposed to be raised by crowdfunding.

Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences launches advanced cancer genomics centre

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has established a Cancer Genomics Centre, becoming the first government sector hospital in Telangana to offer Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)-based cancer diagnostic services.

NGS is a technology that analyses changes in a patient's DNA and RNA to help doctors detect cancer earlier, identify its precise characteristics and select more targeted treatments.

The facility, set up under the Department of Health Research (DHR)-Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Advanced Molecular Oncology Diagnostic Services (DIAMOnDS) project, will enable the detection of cancer-related genetic changes with greater accuracy by analysing DNA and RNA. NIMS director N. Bheerappa said that around 25 centres across India have been selected under the DIAMOnDS project and that NIMS is currently the only centre serving Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka under the scheme.

The Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad.

The laboratory established under the project provides several advanced cancer diagnostic tests free of cost to eligible patients. These include Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Digital Droplet PCR (ddPCR), Fluorescence In Situ Hybridisation (FISH), Immunohistochemistry (IHC) and other molecular diagnostic investigations.

Professor and Head of Pathology Shantveer G. Uppin said that 1,443 cancer patients have already benefited from the free molecular oncology diagnostic services since 2024. These include 784 lung cancer patients and 659 breast cancer patients.

Mock drill

A mock evacuation exercise and fire safety awareness programme was conducted at NIMS on Saturday, to assess emergency preparedness and strengthen coordination among various departments during emergencies. The programme was organised by the Fire Department.

As part of the programme, Station Fire Officer Mohammed Shoukath of Malakpet delivered a presentation on rescue methods, evacuation procedures and safety measures for LPG cylinder fires.

From Page One

Shivakumar to take over as Karnataka CM

Addressing speculation surrounding the power transition, Mr. Venugopal said, "Several people had predicted that the Congress would be in trouble during the power transition. Everyone speculated about the move of Mr. Siddaramaiah. However, by his decision, he has shown that he only has the Congress party in his heart. It proves that Congress is one family." Earlier, at the CLP meeting held at the Bengaluru's Vidhan Soudha in the presence of Mr. Venugopal and Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, legislators unanimously elected the new leader by raising hands after Mr. Shivakumar's name was proposed by the outgoing Chief Minister and seconded by senior leader G. Parameshwara. The election of the new CLP leader was announced by Mr. Venugopal.

Role of Siddaramaiah

Soon after the meeting began, Mr. Siddaramaiah – who has remained the CLP leader since 2008, serving as Leader of Opposition twice and as Chief Minister for one full term besides his current tenure since May 2023 – said that the selection of the new CLP leader had been left to the discretion of the high command.

The two Central leaders, along with Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar, briefly met separately before informing Rahul Gandhi about the decision, following which the CLP elected Mr. Shivakumar, sources said.

"The process was smooth. The contribution of Mr. Siddaramaiah was appreciated, and the CLP passed a resolution in this regard. The outgoing Chief Minister also informed the legislators of the contribution of his government and the challenges that it faced, besides the financial position of the government," a senior Congress leader said.

A leader who attended the meeting said the party high command, which had earlier encouraged Mr. Siddaramaiah to enter national politics when he was asked to step down to pave the way for power transition, again broached the topic. Mr. Venugopal is learnt to have spoken about using the veteran leader's services at both the State and the national level in the future.

Tech glitch delays CUET; retest for 3,765 students

"Most candidates (about 95%) were able to complete their exam once it resumed. We understand that 3,765 candidates who were present and had completed biometric registration chose to leave before the exam could restart. For these candidates, NTA will hold a rescheduled examination as a one-time measure. The new date and details will be announced separately," the NTA said.

Expressing regret over the incident, TCS said the issue that caused the delay was promptly resolved and the exam resumed "without any impact on the sanctity of the exam".

In a statement, TCS chief executive officer and managing director K. Krithivasan said: "A brief technical issue caused a delay of around two hours in the CUET-UG examination in the morning shift today. The issue was promptly identified and resolved by our technical teams, and the examination has since resumed without any impact on the sanctity of the exam. We regret the inconvenience."

The NTA, earlier said that the issue had been resolved and that the test was being conducted with full compensatory time so that no candidate was disadvantaged. The revised afternoon session timings were 2.30 p.m. for reporting/entry and 4 p.m. for commencement of the examination.

The NTA has faced significant criticism in recent years due to repeated concerns over the conduct of major examinations. Following the allegation of medical entrance test NEET-UG paper leak in 2024, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took over the case and has charge-sheeted at least 45 accused persons.

13 countries join military exercise in Meghalaya

Press Trust of India
UMROI

Armies of 13 countries came together in Meghalaya's Umroi for the maiden multilateral military exercise 'Pragati 2026', which concluded on Saturday with a focus on countering insurgency and building mutual trust among the nations in the Indian Ocean region, officials said.

Over 400 soldiers, including around 20 women, from Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and India slithered down from helicopters, detected IEDs along routes and climbed down rocky walls during the two-week exercise, they said.

Tactics and procedures

Discussions on how to incorporate niche technologies and the effect of these on the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) were held during the two-week programme.

"Pragati was a mega exercise in the serene environment of Umroi in Meghalaya. We conducted various specialised drills and procedures, including rock craft, special heliborne operations, tactical situations," said Brigadier Mayur Shekatkar, the chief coordinator for the programme.

Myanmar's President arrives in India; border security, trade on agenda

Hlaing will hold discussions with Modi on June 1 on boosting civilisational ties; he will focus on connectivity and defence sectors too, and later visit Mumbai for business-industry interactions

Press Trust of India
GAYAJI

Ceremonial welcome: Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing is accorded a Guard of Honour upon his arrival at the airport in Bodh Gaya. ANI

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing on Saturday offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple, a Buddhist pilgrimage place and a UNESCO World Heritage site, in Bihar's Gayaji district.

Mr. Hlaing, accompanied by a high-level delegation, including several Cabinet Ministers and business leaders, arrived here in the morning as part of his five-day visit to India.

The President was welcomed by Bihar Governor Syed Ata Hasnain and State Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha and accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour upon his arrival at the airport here.

'New heights'

Mr. Sinha said the visit of Aung Hlaing to the sacred land of Bodh Gaya, the place of enlightenment of Lord Buddha, is an important step towards strengthening the historic, cultural, and spiritual ties between India and Myanmar.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the cooperation, cultural exchanges, Buddhist heritage, and mutual development ties between India and Myanmar are continuously reaching new heights," Mr. Sinha, the State Agriculture Minister, wrote in his X post.

Bilateral cooperation

Mr. Hlaing's five-day visit will be focused on boosting bilateral cooperation in trade, connectivity, border security and defence. The tour comes less than two months after he became the President following Myanmar's parliamentary elections.

Mr. Hlaing was earlier scheduled to visit New Delhi to participate in the International Big Cat Alliance Summit on June 1, which has been deferred.

"President U Min Aung Hlaing will hold discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 1 on further strengthening the historical and civilisational ties between the two countries. He will also participate in a business forum," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Mr. Hlaing will also travel to Mumbai on June 2 for business and industry interactions and site visits.

Uproar in U.P. over 10% fuel surcharge on electricity bills

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) on Saturday announced a 10% surcharge in electricity bills, triggering an uproar in the State. The "fuel and power purchase adjustment surcharge", linked to the transmission charges, will be effective in the June billing cycle, requiring consumers to pay an additional 10% based on their electricity consumption.

In a letter dated May 29, Pankaj Saxena, Chief Engineer of the Regulatory Affairs Unit (RAU), said the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) has issued new guidelines for electricity distribution under the Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) framework. He indicated that the fuel surcharge would be calculated starting from March 2026, with the additional costs applied in June.

"Fuel and Power Purchase Adjustment Surcharge (FPPAS) calculated for the month of March, 2026 as per regulation is to be charged in the month of June, 2026. FPPAS chargeable is 10% for the month of March, to be charged in the month of June, 2026. I have been directed to request you to implement the same for all categories of consumers as per the regulation," the letter read.

Transporters suspend operations in Manipur over killing of truck driver

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Vehicles wait on National Highway no. 37 as drivers stage a protest in Imphal on Saturday after suspending transport of goods. PTI

Transporters suspended their operations in Manipur on Saturday to protest the killing of a trucker from West Bengal's Hooghly in an ambush by Kuki militants in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Friday. The militants had attacked a convoy of food trucks, and LPG and oil tankers on a stretch of National Highway no. 202, the police said.

The suspension of operations threatens to disrupt the supply of essentials to Imphal, the State's capital, and beyond, from southern Assam's Barak Valley via National Highway no. 37, one of Manipur's two lifelines. National Highway no. 2, which enters Manipur via Nagaland, has been blocked since May 13, when the killing of three church leaders led to a hostage crisis involving the Kuki and Naga communities.

On Saturday, the operators of some 400 trucks and oil tankers, stranded in the Keithelmanbi area of Imphal Valley, protested against the killing of Sushil Kumar, 57, the driver who had been transporting Food Corporation of India rice on National Highway no.202. This highway connects Imphal and Ukhrul, the headquarters of the Naga-majority Ukhrul district. The place where the convoy was ambushed is dominated by the Kuki community, and on Saturday, the police confirmed that the attackers were Kuki militants.

A joint team of Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Manipur police, and Rapid Action Force had been escorting the trucks when the attackers rained bullets on them from "tactical positions along the route". A Manipur police constable was injured in the attack.

The drivers said it was too risky to operate on these highways unless the government gave a foolproof guarantee regarding their security. They demanded action against Kumar's killers and the reopening of NH-2, which is a shorter and better-maintained route than NH-37.

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh met the representatives of the All Manipur Road Transport Drivers and members of the slain driver's family.

Rajnath Singh, centre, during the inauguration ceremony of Nausena Shaurya Vatika, in Lucknow on Saturday. ANI

New naval museum serves as symbol of patriotism: Rajnath

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, inaugurated the 'Nausena Shaurya Vatika', an open-air naval museum in Lucknow on Saturday. Mr. Singh described the museum as "a symbol of patriotism and military pride, showcasing the glorious tradition of the Indian Navy's valour, bravery and service to the nation".

"The Nausena Shaurya Vatika is not just a tourist spot, but a source of inspiration. It will tell future generations of the price paid by brave soldiers for the country's freedom and security... It will also serve as a symbol of Lucknow," Mr. Singh said. The open-air facility is built on two acres of land near the Ekana cricket stadium. Nausena Shaurya Vatika has been developed as the second phase of the Nausena Shaurya Sangrahalaya, the Navy's memorial museum.

Operation Sindoor

Mr. Singh commended the Indian Navy for its pivotal role in Operation Sindoor. "The Navy played a crucial role in maintaining pressure on Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Our Navy was fully prepared and deployed in the Arabian Sea, consistently applying pressure on the adversary. Consequently, Pakistan's entire Navy was restricted to its ports," he said.

Touching upon the rapid progress of Uttar Pradesh under Mr. Adityanath, Mr. Singh said it was for everyone to see the way Uttar Pradesh is moving rapidly on the path of development today. "The State was once known for 'goonda raj' and poor law and order. Today's U.P. has changed, and not just the people of the State but the whole country knows this," the Union Minister said, attributing the transformation to Mr. Adityanath's strong leadership.

"When we are strong on the security front, the world too will extend friendship towards us. No one bows before the weak," Mr. Adityanath said. "India's sage tradition inspires us with the saying, 'Ahimsa Parmo Dharma, Dharma Hinsa Tathaiva Cha', meaning, non-violence should be the highest duty in normal life, but if someone poses a threat to the security of the nation , then violence will have to be adopted against them," the U.P. CM said.

Fair electoral rolls lead to fair elections, says CEC Gyanesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CEC Gyanesh Kumar, centre, with Election Commissioners S.S. Sandhu and Vivek Joshi at IIIDEM in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday said that fair electoral rolls led to fair elections and India was "in that moment" at present.

In his inaugural speech at the second National Conference of Counsel representing the Election Commission, Mr. Kumar hailed booth-level officers and agents as the foot soldiers of electoral roll management.

"Fair rolls lead to fair polls. That is the moment today and India is in it," he said highlighting the high-level of contestation during the elections. He commended counsel for their efforts in representing the commission before courts across the country.

The conference was aimed at further strengthening the poll body's legal framework and strategy.

The conference, centred on the theme "A year of legal challenges, experiences, learnings and the way forward", provides a vital platform for dialogue and exchange between the commission and legal professionals, the CEC said.

Experience-sharing sessions by advocates along with discussions on election laws, judicial proceedings, legal reforms, institutional coordination, the role of media narratives, and EC's technology-driven initiatives, including ECINET, offered a platform for examining emerging issues in the electoral and legal landscape.

Eight 'ISI-linked' suspects held, weapons recovered, say police

Shrimansi Kaushik
NEW DELHI

The group was planning to attack strategic locations in various parts of the country, including Mumbai, say police

A Special Cell of the Delhi Police on Saturday arrested eight persons, who are allegedly part of a module linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Mumbai's criminal underworld. The module convened a group of terrorists to attack strategic locations in different parts of the country, including Delhi and Mumbai, the police said.

The arrested individuals were allegedly connected to Munna Jhingada, an associate of Dawood Ibrahim and Shahzad Bhatti, a Pakistan-based gangster.

The module came to light when, earlier this month, two individuals, Vijay, and Nitish Paswan, were arrested by the Special Cell from Pune, and Sahibganj in Jharkhand, respectively. Interrogations revealed their links to Bhatti's network operating from Pakistan and Dubai, the police said.

Further interrogation and technical surveillance led to the arrest on May 27 from Mumbai of two more individuals, Taoqeer Rizwan and Arbaz Khan, who were linked to ISI handlers Yahwar Khan, and Jhingada. On Saturday, at 1 a.m., the police intercepted Manjeet Singh, Gagandeep Singh, and Harvinder Singh, all from Punjab, at the Mehrauli-Badarpur road in Delhi. "From them, we recovered four hand grenades, two Glock pistols, and 25 live cartridges. We also received other incriminating evidence, laying down the details of locations at which they were planning to attack," Mr. Shukla said.

Interrogating them, the police found that these individuals were connected to a 66-year-old Nepali citizen, Ang Kami Lama, who had come into contact with Jhingada in the Bangkok jail.

Investigation into the role of other Nepali citizens and certain Nepali-origin nodes linked to the module is underway.

Bengal CM may expand State Cabinet tomorrow

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is likely to expand his Cabinet on Monday and allocate key portfolios to senior Bharatiya Janata Party leaders.

According to sources in the State administration, the first BJP Cabinet in the State is likely to have more than 30 members, with their names to be announced after formal approval from the party's central leadership.

After the landslide victory in the Bengal Assembly election, Mr. Adhikari and five other BJP MLAs – Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtania, Nisith Pramanik, and Kshudiram Tudu – were sworn in as Ministers by Governor R.N. Ravi on May 9.

Senior BJP leaders such as Tapas Roy, Sankar Ghosh, and Swapan Dasgupta are likely to be included. Former Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh and senior BJP leader Ritesh Tewari are also among other top contenders.

Mr. Adhikari announced that the Budget session of the State Assembly will commence on June 22.

Modi destroying India's education system: Rahul

His remarks follow reports of delay in CUET-UG due to glitches; Congress intensifies criticism over the CBSE's On Screen Marking issue, renews call for probe and resignation of Education Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "destroying" India's education system.

The government could not even hold an examination properly yet claimed to be a "vishwaguru", Mr. Gandhi said, adding that the generation "having its future ruined" by the Narendra Modi government would hold it to account.

His remarks followed reports of delays by the National Testing Agency (NTA) in holding the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-Undergraduate (UG) at some centres due to a technical glitches.

"NEET [National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test], CBSE [Central Board of Secondary Education], SSC [Staff Selection Commission], and today, CUET. Four examinations. One crore students. Not a single one could be conducted honestly," Mr. Gandhi said. "Claims to be a 'vishwaguru', but unable to conduct even a single examination within the country – Modi *ji* has completely destroyed the entire education system," Mr. Gandhi said. "The very generation whose future you are ruining – that same generation will hold you accountable," the Congress leader said.

> NEET, CBSE, SSC, and today, CUET. Four examinations. One crore students. Not a single one could be conducted honestly. Claims to be a 'vishwaguru', but unable to conduct even a single examination within the country, Modiji has destroyed the system
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Congress leader

On OSM system

Citing two investigations, one by a Class 12 student and another by a newspaper, the Congress's communications chief, Jairam Ramesh, intensified the party's attack on the Union government over the introduction of the On Screen Marking (OSM) system for the Class 12 Board examinations. He demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Mr. Ramesh questioned the "intentions and preparedness" of the CBSE in rolling out the OSM system, and posed 10 questions to the government on the way in which it had been introduced ahead of the Board examinations.

Why had the CBSE "rushed" the implementation of the OSM within 74 days before the examinations, and why were the concerns flagged during a "dry run" in five Delhi schools not addressed, Mr. Ramesh said.

Eligibility criteria

The senior Congress leader questioned the changes in the rules for the "Request for Proposal", alleging that the eligibility criteria had been diluted to favour COEMPT Edutech, including modifications to the provisions for blacklisting provisions, turnover requirements, capability maturity standards, and data centre norms.

Why had the CBSE allegedly diluted contractual safeguards, including provisions related to blacklisting contractors for errors, the Congress leader said. "It is increasingly clear that an astonishing mix of incompetence, corruption, and callousness went into the CBSE's planning and implementation of the Grade 12 Board Exams," Mr. Ramesh said, demanding an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the issue, and calling for Mr. Pradhan's resignation.

Facing the heat: Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee after shoes and eggs were thrown at him during his visit to meet families of post-poll violence victims in Sonarpur on Saturday. PTI

Mob attacks Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee; Mamata blames it on BJP

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A mob chased and attacked Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee at Sonarpur in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Saturday, during his visit to the residence of a party worker who was allegedly killed in the recent post-poll violence. Mr. Banerjee called it a "BJP-sponsored attack".

Aftermath of violence: Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee leaving a hospital in Kolkata on Saturday. ANI

The mob, raising *"chor chor* (thief thief)" slogans, threw eggs and shoes at the Trinamool leader as security personnel tried to shield him. Mr. Banerjee put on a helmet but the crowd kept chasing him, throwing projectiles at him all the way till the residence of the deceased party worker.

Videos aired by local television channels and circulated on social media showed people trying to pull his hand and shirt, while he tried to duck his attackers. Some of eggs thrown at the Trinamool leader hit his helmet and his shirt was soiled and torn.

Mr. Banerjee remained holed up in the house as a large number of local people and BJP supporters, mostly women, gathered outside. The women, who were carrying eggs, said they would not leave till they settled scores with him. The crowd expressed their displeasure on a number of issues, particularly over the Trinamool leader's earlier remark that he would play DJ (disc jockey) music after the election results were announced, an oblique reference to settling scores with political rivals.

The stand-off continued for over an hour. The police and Central forces arrived at the site and escorted him out of the house.

After returning from Sonarpur, Mr. Banerjee was treated in two hospitals in Kolkata, but was not admitted.

Trinamool chairperson Mamata Banerjee visited her nephew in a hospital. Earlier, she shared a video of the attack and wrote, "RULERS BECAME KILLERS- shame on you BJP."

Amid reports of several Trinamool workers being targeted after the BJP won the election in West Bengal, Mr. Banerjee had announced that from Saturday, he would visit the residences of party workers affected by the post-poll violence. Earlier in the day, he faced angry protesters when he visited the house of another deceased worker at ward number 9 of the Rajpur Sonarpur municipality on the southern fringes of Kolkata.

Speaking to the accompanying presspersons, Mr. Banerjee said: "They want to kill me. Even if my body is taken out from the place, I will not leave the place without speaking to the parents of Sanju [the dead party worker Sanju Karmakar]."

"My head was somehow spared; fortunately, I was wearing a helmet. They have torn my clothes and broken my spectacles," he said. "Look at what they [BJP] have done. This is their example of democracy. It hasn't even been a month, and the police are nowhere to be seen," he said.

BJP chief calls for calm

West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party president Samik Bhattacharya appealed for calm. "Had the Trinamool come to power, 500 of our workers would have been killed and I would not be standing here. There is anger among the people but there is no space for violence in democracy," he said.

Condemning the attack, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said: "The Government of West Bengal and the Union government must ensure security for all Opposition leaders and take immediate steps to prevent such attacks. Political differences can never justify any kind of violence."

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi called the attack a "disgusting display of the BJP's vendetta politics".

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav called the attack "utterly condemnable".

Business leaders to discuss navigating many challenges at The Hindu Huddle

The Hindu Bureau

The past few years have forced business leaders to contend with challenges few could have anticipated. Geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, technological disruption, changing workforce dynamics, and the rapid emergence of artificial intelligence have altered the environment in which organisations operate, often requiring difficult decisions to be made with incomplete information.

In such circumstances, leadership is tested not only by the ability to respond to immediate challenges but also by the capacity to prepare organisations for what lies ahead. Questions of judgment, adaptability, organisational culture, and long-term vision have assumed renewed significance.

These issues will be explored in a session titled "The Architecture of Leadership - Designing Blueprints for a Volatile World" at The Hindu Huddle on June 5.

Moderated by Navaneeth L.V., Chief Executive Officer, The Hindu Group, the discussion will bring together Neeti Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Digital; Praveen Someshwar, Managing Director and CEO, United Spirits Limited and Member, Global Diageo Executive Committee; Shailendra Katyal, Managing Director, Lenovo India Pvt. Ltd., and Site Leader, Lenovo Group; and Ganesan R., Head, Corporate Centre at L&T Construction, AI and Digital Technologies.

The panellists will discuss how leadership approaches are shaped over time and how they evolve in response to changing circumstances.

The discussion will also focus on the practical realities of leading organisations through change. As industries undergo transformation and business cycles become less predictable, leaders are increasingly required to empower teams, distribute responsibility, and remain flexible enough to alter course when conditions demand it.

Another strand of the discussion will centre on organisational renewal. Set against the broader theme of "A World in Transition", the session will offer perspectives on how leaders are navigating uncertainty while seeking to build institutions that remain relevant, resilient, and prepared for the future.

Event partners

The Hindu Huddle is presented by the Sami-Sabinsa Group as the Presenting Partner. The event is co-powered by the Government of Telangana and held in association with Khaja Bandanawaz University.

The event is further supported by Bank of Baroda, Larsen & Toubro, Apollo Hospitals, IIM Sirmaur, ICFAI Group, TAFE, Wizzmoni, Associate Partners; Casagrand, Realty Partner; Toyota, Luxury Car partner; Amity University Bengaluru, University Partner; Harrow International School Bengaluru, Education Partner; Meghalaya Tourism, State Partner; and NDTV 24x7, TV Partner.

Rabri Devi refuses to vacate govt. bungalow

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

A day after the Bihar Building Construction Department served her a notice for the second time, former Chief Minister Rabri Devi on Saturday refused to vacate her government accommodation - 10 Circular Road bungalow – in Patna.

She challenged the Samrat Choudhary government to evict her from the bungalow, which has now been allotted to Cabinet Minister Nandkishore Ram. According to the notice, Ms. Devi, wife of Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad, has been allotted accommodation at 39 Harding Road.

She said the government could evict her forcibly using the police force, but she would not vacate the bungalow on her own.

Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Saraogi said the rule of law would prevail in Bihar, and no individual, no matter how high-ranking his/her office was, would be considered above the law.

Council of Architecture
Ministry of Education, Government of India.

NATA 2026
CHOOSE ARCHITECTURE
बनें राष्ट्र निर्माण के भागीदार

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE
CONDUCT OF NATA 2026 FOR ADMISSION TO B.ARCH. COURSE

The Council of Architecture is conducting the National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) 2026 for admission to the First Year of the 5-Year B.Arch. Degree Programme. Registration for NATA 2026 Phase-1 is currently open and will close on **09.06.2026. The last examination under Phase-1 is scheduled to be held on 13.06.2026.**

The scores obtained in Phase-1 shall be considered for admission to B.Arch. programmes through the Centralized Admission Process (CAP) Counselling conducted by various admission authorities across States and Union Territories. **Candidates aspiring to pursue the B.Arch. Degree Programme are advised to complete their registration for NATA 2026 at the earliest, well before the closing date.**

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The NATA 2026 brochure containing eligibility criteria, syllabus and list of institutions admitting students to B.Arch. programme based on NATA score along with other important details is available on **www.nata.in** and **www.coa.gov.in.**

A candidate may appear in a maximum of two attempts. NATA 2026 score shall be valid for 2026-2027 academic year only.

New Delhi
Date : 31.05.2026

Registrar

www.nata.in

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, KESHARI NAGAR, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001

Cancellation Notice to Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES-12/2025–26

Tender for the work at SI.01 Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Left Out Rengali main canal from Kelua NH-149 to Manikamara Jaka road from 0.0 to 15.000km in the District of Dhenkanal for the year 2025-26 vide Tender ID No.2026_EICCL_124248_1 of **Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES-12/2025-26 is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.**

Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Odisha
(I/c) Chief Engineer, Bridges, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. **Name of the Work : Construction of Block Level Stadium at Raikela Block of Keonjhar.**
2. **Value of the Work : Rs.18.30 Crore**
3. **Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months**
4. **Availability of tender online for Bidding :**
i. **Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.03.06.2026**
ii. **End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.17.06.2026**
iii. **Opening date : 11.00 Hours of dt.18.06.2026.**

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Civil) IDCO, Bhubaneswar
4001/112/2627 OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0035

APPOINTMENT

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
सूक्ष्म , लघु और मध्यम उद्यम मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
Kartavya Bhawan Building-3, Kartavya Path, New Delhi 110001.

With reference to this Ministry's vacancy circular No. 11(6)/2021-EDI (Part-I) dated 2nd April, 2026 and the advertisement published in Employment News (18–24 April, 2026), the last date for receipt of applications for filling up the post of Director General (DG), National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (ni-msme), Hyderabad, on Deputation/Direct Recruitment (Contractual) basis in Level 13-A of the Pay Matrix, has been extended up to 10.06.2026.

Sd/- (Hemanth Sharma)
under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

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S.No.	Unit type	E-Tender no.	Sale of Tender	Last Date & Time for submission of E-Tender
1	RR-KU	SZ/NIT/RR/2026/02	31.05.2026	30.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs
2	FP & FFU	SZ/NIT/FP-FFU/2026/02	31.05.2026	30.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs

Tender document downloading & participation can be done on Website : < www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC >

In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on IRCTC's website: **< www.irctc.com >**

INBRIEF

'BrahMos deal with Vietnam inked, Indonesia next in line'

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Saturday that a BrahMos missile deal with Vietnam had already been signed, while a similar pact involving Indonesia was in the final stages. Mr. Singh is in Singapore to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue, and his comments were in response to a question on potential buyers of the missile system. "My understanding is that with both Indonesia and Vietnam, the deal is in the final stages, in fact, for Vietnam, I understand that it has already been signed, probably not publicly announced, but it's already been signed," he said. The Philippines was the first foreign buyer of the BrahMos missile system from India. PTI

Court extends Hawaldar's CBI custody in NEET leak case

A Delhi court on Saturday extended the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) custody of accused Manisha Sanjay Hawaldar, an accused in the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case, by two more days. Another accused, Manisha Mandhare, was remanded to judicial custody for 14 days. Special Judge Ajay Gupta was hearing the agency's plea to interrogate both the accused and allowed the plea. The court also issued notice to the CBI on the bail application filed by another accused, Manisha Waghmare, who sought relief on medical grounds, citing illness. The court directed the agency to file its response and posted the matter for hearing on June 5. PTI

RTI activist shot dead in Punjab; probe under way

Jalandhar-based RTI activist Simaranjit Singh was shot dead by unidentified armed individuals near the gate of Maheru village in Punjab on Saturday, the police said. Jalandhar Range Deputy Inspector-General Naveen Singla said a 32-bore pistol was found near the body of Mr. Singh, while a 12-bore rifle was found in an SUV near the crime spot. "We are scanning CCTV footage and formed multiple teams for tracing the assailants who will be arrested soon," the DIG said, adding that if needed, help will be sought from the counter-intelligence for solving the case. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the DIG added. PTI

Court orders charges against actor, 15 others under PMLA

A Delhi court on Saturday ordered framing of charges against actor Jacqueline Fernandez, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and 15 others in a ₹200-crore money laundering case. Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Prashant Sharma said that "prima facie, there is sufficient material on record based upon which a strong suspicion is raised against all accused". The persons "have to be charged with the offence under Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, punishable under Section 4 of PMLA", the ASJ said. Mr. Chandrashekhar was arrested by the Delhi Police in 2017 and by the Enforcement Directorate in 2021. PTI

SUDOKU

	2			3	7			4
	8	6				2		
4	3				8	5		
8	1							
7				1				6
							1	3
		5	8				4	1
		8				6	9	
3			5	6			2	

No.SS6897 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	2	7	4	9	8	5	6
6	7	4	8	1	5	3	2	9
5	8	9	2	3	6	7	4	1
9	2	3	4	6	8	5	1	7
4	1	5	3	9	7	6	8	2
8	6	7	1	5	2	9	3	4
7	9	1	5	2	3	4	6	8
2	5	6	9	8	4	1	7	3
3	4	8	6	7	1	2	9	5

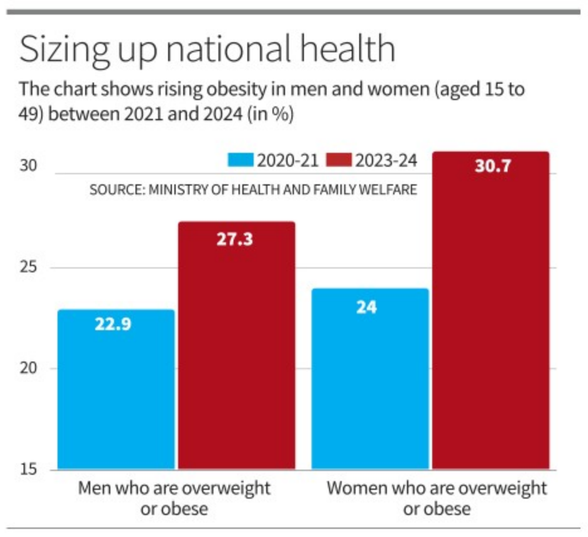
NFHS-6 records rise in obesity and C-section births in southern States

Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu record high rates of overweight and obese adults, alongside a rising prevalence of diabetes; the latest survey also notes a high rate of Caesarean births, accounting for 27.2% of deliveries nationwide

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) has highlighted the rapid rise in obesity and diabetes across India. Obesity in women (15-49 years) has gone up from 24% in the NFHS-5 to 30.7% in the latest NFHS-6, and similarly obesity in men of the same age group from 22.9% to 27.3%.

Diabetes among persons taking medicines to control insulin resistance has risen from 13.5% to 17.8% in women, and 15.6% to 20.9% in men.



Obesity prevalence

The survey has indicated that obesity/overweight prevalence has increased by about 6.7% among women and 4.4% among men in just five years.

This is particularly so in the southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, which have emerged as a hotspot for overweight and obese adults, alongside rising diabetes prevalence.

The survey also records an exceptionally high rate of Caesarean (C)-section births, with Telangana at 62.2%, Andhra Pradesh at 52.2%, and Tamil Nadu at 46.9%.

Rise in C-section births

The national share of births by C-section stood at 27.2%, up from 21.5% recorded in the previous survey. Private hospitals registered 54.1% Caesarean births whereas public hospitals registered 16.9%.

Urban areas reported particularly high rates of C-section deliveries, with around 40.5% of births by C-section when compared with the 22.8% births by C-section in rural areas.

C-sections, obesity, and diabetes are a two-way street, experts say.

Maternal obesity and diabetes increase risk during pregnancy, resulting in a C-section, and being born via C-section increases a child's long-term risk of developing these metabolic conditions.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released the NFHS-6 earlier this week. It was conducted in 2023-24 by the Ministry along with the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai as the nodal agency.

6.79 lakh households

Covering nearly 6.79 lakh households across 715 districts, the survey provides vital evidence on population, health, nutrition, and family welfare indicators, and supports evidence-based planning and programme implementation up to the district-level.

Obesity and diabetes are among the most important global public health challenges because they substantially increase the risk of illness, disability, and premature death, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The global health body defines overweight and obesity as abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that may impair health.

Risk of Type 2 diabetes

The WHO emphasises that excess body weight is one of the strongest risk factors for developing Type 2 diabetes.

"When people accumulate excess body fat – especially around the abdomen – the body's cells can become resistant to insulin. This condition, called insulin resistance, makes it harder to regulate blood sugar and can eventually lead to Type 2 diabetes," the WHO has said.

The condition results in reduced life expectancy, more years lived with disability, higher risk of multiple chronic diseases, and increased healthcare costs.

Progress in women's education, digital access

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6), 2023-24 data tell a complex story of Indian women – with significant gains in education, digital access and economic agency, but also persistent social constraints, including low property ownership, marriage before the legal age of 18, and bearing the burden of family planning.

The survey results indicate that a stronger push is needed to build on the gains made in women's empowerment. FILE PHOTO

The survey shows that 73.7% of women have attended school, up from 71.8% recorded in NFHS-5 survey (2019-21). The proportion of women with over 10 years of schooling also went up from 41% to 46.4%, while Internet use among women has nearly doubled from 33.2% to 64.3%.

However, women's ownership of a house or land, either alone or jointly, has stayed below 20%, rising from 14% to 18.8%. Deep-rooted gender norms continue to shape life outcomes. As much as 20.1% of women aged 20-24 were married before the legal age of 18, only a modest improvement from 23.3% in the previous survey. Female sterilisation remains the dominant form of family planning at 36.5%, falling from 37.9%, raising questions about the unequal burden of reproductive responsibility.

Gender-based violence

According to NFHS-6, India has recorded a notable decline in violence against women, particularly spousal violence. The survey found that 22.3% of ever-married women aged 18-49 reported having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their spouse, down from 29.2% in NFHS-5 – a decline of nearly 7 percentage points.

Additionally, while most States recorded decline in violence against women, Kerala saw an increase in reported spousal violence from 9.8% in NFHS-5 to 17.7% in the latest survey. Bihar recorded 36.1%, Telangana 30.8%, Tamil Nadu 28.5%, Uttar Pradesh 28.5% and Andhra Pradesh 22.7% – all above the national average.

According to NFHS-6, the use of tobacco and alcohol in the country has continued to decline, although significant gender disparities remain. Among adults aged 15 and above, 34.6% of men and 7.2% of women use any form of tobacco, compared with 38% of men and 8.9% of women in NFHS-5. Alcohol consumption remains far more common among men than women, with 18.2% of men and 0.7% of women reporting alcohol use, compared with 19% of men and 1% of women in NFHS-5.

The survey indicates that tobacco and alcohol use are generally higher in rural areas and among socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

While the decline reflects the impact of public health campaigns and tobacco-control measures, the continued prevalence of these risk factors remains a concern because they are closely linked to non-communicable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory illness, and liver disorders.

New cascade frog species recorded in Nagaland's hill-stream habitats

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Nagaland has yielded a new-to-science cascade-dwelling frog.

A team of six scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) recorded this species in August 2024 from the hill-stream habitats near Singrep village during a field survey in Kiphire district, bordering Myanmar.

The species has been named *Amolops kamal* after Kamal Choudhury, a former teacher of the lead author of the research paper at Guwahati's B. Barooah College.

The common name of this species is Nagaland cascade frog.

The authors of the study are Bhaskar Saikia, Bikramjit Sinha, A. Shabnam, Prabir Narayan Konwar, Mridul Kumar Borthakur, and K.P. Dinesh. Their study was published in the latest issue of the journal *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*.

The researchers said integrative taxonomic analyses, including molecular phylogenetic studies, confirmed that the specimens represent a distinct evolutionary lineage within the *Amolops indoburmanensis* species complex.

The species was recorded in Nagaland's Kiphire district by a team of six Zoological Survey of India scientists. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Unmapped diversity

ZSI Director Dhriti Banerjee said the documentation of *Amolops kamal* highlights the rich yet understudied faunal diversity of India's northeastern region and underscores the importance of long-term field surveys in biodiversity hotspots.

Dr. Sinha of the ZSI, Kolkata, who led the field expedition, said the rugged landscapes and isolated stream ecosystems of the northeast continue to harbour poorly known amphibian lineages.

Dr. Dinesh of the ZSI, Pune, underscored the importance of molecular approaches in amphibian taxonomy, particularly in Northeast India, where many frog species are morphologically similar. He said molecular data were increasingly essential for delineating species boundaries, understanding true species distributions, and identifying cryptic species complexes that may otherwise remain hidden under a single species name. The study further demonstrated that *Amolops indoburmanensis*, previously considered a widespread species, may represent multiple distinct evolutionary lineages distributed across Northeast India and neighbouring regions.

The Asian cascade-dwelling frog genus *Amolops* currently comprises 90 recognised species, with 20 reported from India. These species are generally classified into 10 species groups based on morphological similarities.

In India, the *Amolops* species are mainly categorised across three groups: *Amolops marmoratus*, *Amolops monticola*, and *Amolops viridimaculatus*. The first group is the most diverse, represented by eight species.

Amolops indoburmanensis was suspected to be a hidden species complex within the *Amolops marmoratus* group.

Now, citizens can lodge grievances online by talking to a chatbot

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Saturday unveiled an artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled chatbot to help citizens raise grievances against government departments online.

Launching the chatbot named *Samadhan Didi*, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh termed it "democratisation of public grievance mechanism" in the nation.

Multilingual solution

Citizens can now lodge their grievances by speaking to the chatbot, in their own language, and describing their concern in plain words, without needing to know the Ministry/department, category or sub-category it comes under, Mr. Singh said.

The chatbot takes in the audio data, asks a few clarifying questions, automatically identifies the appropriate Ministry, department, category and sub-category, and files the grievance with the correct authority, the Minister said.

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), in collaboration with Bhashini (an AI-powered tool), developed the chatbot within secure government infrastructure, ensuring data privacy.

At the launch event, the chatbot was demonstrated live and tested in different Indian languages.

Highlighting the paradigm shift in the public grievance mechanism in the country in the past 12 years of the [Narendra] Modi government, he said that when the government assumed office in 2014, the grievance redress system witnessed limited public participation, with only about two lakh grievances being registered annually through the CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) portal.

The number of grievances received through the system had now increased to over 25 lakh every year, Mr. Singh said.

Only 15.3% of children aged 6-23 months get adequate diet: NFHS-6

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) data has revealed a worrying trend in child nutrition, with a substantial proportion of children aged six-23 months still not getting an adequate diet despite some improvement witnessed over the previous years.

According to the data, the proportion of children in the six-23-month age group receiving an adequate diet stood at 15.3% in NFHS-6, up from 11% in NFHS-5. This means that Indian toddlers are still missing out on the diverse and frequent meals required for healthy growth and brain development, despite improvements in food availability and government nutrition programmes. Experts warned that children may be receiving enough calories but not enough proteins, micronutrients, and nutrient-rich foods essential for development.

The data also showed a decline in exclusive breastfeeding among children aged under six months, from 63.7% in NFHS-5 to 55.8% in NFHS-6.

Exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months is universally recommended by global health organisations as breast milk provides the exact balance of nutrients, antibodies, and hydration a baby needs to thrive, while protecting their developing digestive and immune systems.

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) founder Dr. Arun Gupta said the decline in exclusive breastfeeding is deeply concerning.

However, NFHS-6 has some encouraging numbers too. The proportion of children aged 6-8 months receiving solid or semi-solid food alongside breast milk rose from 45.9% to 59.5%.

A comparison of NFHS-5 (2019-21) and NFHS-6 (2023-24) showed that India has made progress in reducing child undernutrition, although challenges remain significant.

INBRIEF

Ministry of Finance suspends import duty levied on cotton

The Ministry of Finance has suspended the import duty on cotton from June 1 to October 31, giving the much-sought relief for the textile industry. In a notification issued on May 30, the Ministry said the 11% duty will not be levied from June 1. Cotton production in the current cotton marketing season (October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026) is expected to be about 290 lakh bales as against the domestic requirement of almost 320 lakh bales. The Union government suspended the import duty from April to October in 2022 and in 2025. Cotton price on Saturday was ₹64,000 a candy and prices have been on the rise for the past two months. Almost 40 lakh bales of cotton have been imported so far in the current season.

Cautious resilience, FinMin says as inflation risk looms

Union Ministry of Finance flagged risks of inflation and weakening growth momentum among emerging economies due to the West Asia crisis. The Ministry said its outlook was one of "cautious resilience" in its Monthly Economic Review for May. While assuring that the domestic fundamentals were broadly intact, "the global environment has become materially more challenging since the onset of the West Asia conflict, with elevated crude prices, tightening financial conditions, and weakening growth momentum across major economies posing headwinds that India cannot fully insulate itself from," the document read. Besides the effects of the West Asian war, a below-normal monsoon and a likely moderation in economic activity can lead to consumption slowdown. Wholesale inflation and retail inflation are both moving in the opposite direction and this means that the production cost is building and would soon be passed on to end consumers.

IT firms bench 'benches,' hire specialised temporary talent

Technology companies move to optimise costs and dismantle benches, shift towards on-demand talent acquisition amid fast-evolving technologies in the context of Artificial Intelligence, ML

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

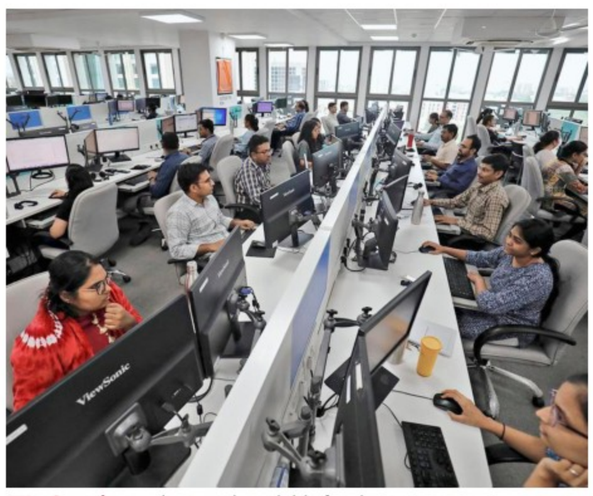
To optimise costs and dismantle "benches" tech firms are shifting to on-demand talent acquisition, on short-term contracts of three months to a year for specialised projects.

Benching is an industry term used to describe workers transitioning between projects, which sometimes could take months. But the employees stay on the payroll of the companies. The industry views this practice as wages being paid for workless man hours.

Industry experts said short-term hiring for skills, including Gen AI engineering, cloud architecture and automation, large language model fine tuning, machine learning operations, cyber security, data and site reliability engineering, and consultants who can advice clients on AI transformation has spiked in last two quarters.

Tech firms have already been using third-party vendor rolls to keep headcount off official balance sheets to look lean and nimble to investors and clients. But short-term contracts have now gained prominence.

IT skill set bench is not the same since a year or so. Then talent was on the bench for reasons such as delayed client contract and delivery of projects where a team has been brought in anticipating new contracts, observed B.S. Murthy, CEO, Human Capital, a tech hiring firm here.



IT's changing: Talent pool available for short-term assignments have increased manifold. REUTERS (REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY)

He explained, "Bench comes with an expensive holding cost to every tech major. Things are changing off late as per what clients dictate. Clients want IT providers to use AI apps/ Agentic AI and other AI platforms. Also, most tech firms are finding it difficult to reskill quickly as deployment and delivery time are getting shorter."

The talent pool available for short-term assignments has also risen manifold, as many have exited full-time jobs to attempt short-term consulting and expert advisory roles, he opined.

AI changing dynamics

Aditya Narayan Mishra, MD and CEO, CIEL HR, said AI-led optimisation is changing workforce structures across the sector. Tasks that required large teams were now being handled by leaner ones on automation and AI tools.

"As a result, the traditional practice of maintaining large bench strength in anticipation of future projects is reducing. Organisations are becoming agile and aligning talent deployment much closer to actual business demand, thereby increasing contract hiring for specialised and niche skills," he said.

Kapil Joshi, CEO, IT Staffing, Quess Corp said, workforce utilisation and productivity rates have risen to almost 85-89% from 80% some years ago, on reskilling and redeploying employees into high-demand technology areas.

"Hiring demand has shifted sharply toward deployment-ready professionals with expertise in niche and super-specialised domains. Mid-level professionals now account for almost 65% of technology hiring demand while entry-level demand has slid from 28% in 2024 to 15% in 2025 as firms move away from large-scale campus hiring," Mr. Joshi added.

'Not climate change'

Manish Sabhrawal, chairman, Teamlease said, "I don't think this is climate change for software service firms but it is a passing storm. And in any economic storm, the conversion of fixed costs to variable costs improves resilience because the timing of normalcy is currently unmodellable."

Xpheno, that tracks evolving trends in tech hiring, recently said, India's technology sector's active talent demand was on a downward slope with the moderate start to FY27 continuing into the first quarter.

"Overall, the technology sector continues on a downward trajectory in active talent demand volume, which has remained sluggish over the last four-plus quarters.

"The overall sentiment on hiring continues to be one of caution and general conservation at both the employee and employer ends," said Kamal Karanth, Co-founder, Xpheno.

Generali Central Life eyes higher growth

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Alok Rungta

Private insurer Generali Central Life Insurance is confident of staying on the high-growth trajectory in FY27 on the back of enhanced trust factor with the Central Bank of India becoming a shareholder.

This even while remaining wary, like most businesses, about the impact of the West Asia crisis.

"In FY26 a lot of growth has come because we had a change in shareholding... that brought a lot of trust with the customers," MD and CEO Alok Rungta said.

Last year, the bank had replaced Future Group in the insurance JV.

Describing FY26, when Generali Central clocked 102% growth in individual new business premium at ₹964 crore, as a good year, he said the new shareholder gives access to about 4,500 branches of Central Bank and a chance to boost tier II and III business.

On life insurance post Oct. 2024 surrender value norms and Sept. 2025 GST waiver on individual policies, Mr.Rungta said, "We have to go back to the drawing board."

On West Asia crisis, he said if the cost of living rose, disposable income would be affected and burden on employment cannot be ruled out. If it prolongs, there will be some cause for concern, he said,

In FY26, Generali Central Life gross written premium rose 16% to ₹2,910 crore. It declared ₹102.54 crore bonus in the fiscal, an increase of 21% yoy.

Cyient to buy U.S. firm TAO for $218 mn

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Intelligent engineering solutions firm Cyient said it is acquiring 100% stake in TAO Digital Solutions, a California-headquartered digital engineering firm focused on data, product and AI-led services. TAO has a presence in Canada, India, Taiwan, and Europe, aside from the U.S.

It is a cash deal, including an upfront payment and performance-linked earnout. The transaction implies an enterprise value of $218 million and subject to customary regulatory approvals and closing conditions expected to close by Q2 FY27.

THE HINDU GROUP

THIS WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY,

HAVE A SMOKE TOMORROW.

1 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Think of it as a small break.
2 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Yesterday felt good, right? Today can too.
3 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Nicotine has left the body. But the cravings haven't. Baby steps.
4 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Breathing feels easier. Today, you don't take it for granted.
5 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Your lungs have started cleaning themselves. Don't disrupt that important work.
6 I will smoke tomorrow instead. No, it's not a coincidence that food suddenly tastes a lot better.
7 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Your body has spent years adapting to smoke. Now it's adapting to fresh air again.
8 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Smoking creates routines disguised as needs. You're beginning to tell them apart.
9 I will smoke tomorrow instead. You're not just "trying" to quit anymore.
10 I will smoke tomorrow instead. The money you are starting to save is not a small amount.
11 I will smoke tomorrow instead. The difficult days feel twice as long. But you have twice the strength for those days.
12 I will smoke tomorrow instead. A cigarette ends in minutes. It just doesn't feel worth it anymore.
13 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Your smoker friend is asking for advice on quitting. It feels good.

If you quit smoking for 28 days, you're five times more likely to live a smoke-free life.

14 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Smile. You're two weeks in. This is exciting.
15 I will smoke tomorrow instead. The difficult days feel a little less difficult than they used to.
16 I will smoke tomorrow instead. You're finding other ways to 'take a break'.
17 I will smoke tomorrow instead. You wonder what smoking did for you. You're learning things about yourself.
18 I will smoke tomorrow instead. The body keeps score. This counts.
19 I will smoke tomorrow instead. You feel proud now when you say 'no'.
20 I will smoke tomorrow instead. The voice in your head telling you to smoke isn't as loud anymore.
21 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Three weeks in, it's still hard. Difficulty is not failure.
22 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Today, you confidently referred to yourself as an 'ex-smoker'.
23 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Your heart no longer works as hard as it used to. Celebrate that.
24 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Today you have energy you didn't realise you had.
25 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Somewhere along the way, this stopped being about cigarettes.
26 I will smoke tomorrow instead. Your body has been forgiving you quietly for weeks. You feel closer to it.
27 I will smoke tomorrow instead. You're beginning to imagine yourself entirely without it.
28 I won't smoke tomorrow. It's been four weeks of lying to yourself that you'll smoke tomorrow. Congratulations.

A smoker's brain fears 'forever'. But it can survive 'not today'.

QUIT SMOKING, ONE TOMORROW AT A TIME.

Source: https://www.tobaccoinduceddiseases.org

A BG-BGE

Air pollution cut India's solar power output by 9.6% in 2023: study

Vasudevan Mukunth

Aerosols in the air reduced the amount of solar power generated in India by 9.6% in 2023, equivalent to around 15 terawatt-hours (TWh), according to a new analysis published in *Nature Sustainability*. The same study reported that the global average loss due to the same cause in 2023 was 5.8%.

Between 2017 and 2023, pollution-related electricity generation losses from existing installations averaged 74 TWh a year – roughly one third of the electricity generated every year by new solar capacity.

According to the study, India's loss is one of the world's highest, with the most electricity generation potential lost in the country's heavily polluted north.

The researchers assembled what they called the first global facility-level database of solar photovoltaic generation and losses, totalling 1.4 lakh facilities worldwide. They analysed the numbers together with satellite data, atmospheric data, and machine-learning.

Aerosols are fine particles of sulphates and carbon, among other constituents, and they directly reduce the amount of sunlight reaching solar panels, thus undermining an important source of power meant to replace coal in India.

India's neighbour with an even bigger appetite for power, China, lost the most power generation potential in 2023, 61.3 TWh, but which was lower than India's as a fraction of the total generation (7.7%). In fact, China both illustrates the scale of the problem and a way through it.

China generated 793.5 TWh of solar electricity in 2023 and accounted for 54.9% of aerosol-related losses worldwide. Many of the country's solar farms lie within 30 km of coal power plants, increasing the former's exposure to pollution that blocks sunlight.

However, China reduced pollution-related loss of solar power by around 1.4% a year from 2013 to 2023 and at the same time it expanded coal power. It reduced the losses by retrofitting coal plants with high-efficiency filters that curtailed sulphur dioxide and particulate emissions.

A key technology in reducing these emissions is flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD), which removes sulphur dioxide from flue gas vented into the air.

India's aerosol-induced losses in solar power production did not decline from 2013 to 2023, staying flat. In 2025, the Indian government also significantly weakened a target to install FGD units by limiting them to coal plants near major cities and, on a case by case basis, plants in critically polluted areas.

How WhatsApp and a clot-buster eased rural access to heart care

By combining WhatsApp-based coordination, training for frontline healthcare workers, and the clot-busting injected drug tenecteplase, doctors are improving access to timely heart attack care in rural Punjab

Swagata Yadavar

At 4:40 am on May 4, a 40-year-old man came to Khanna sub-divisional hospital's emergency department with sweating and chest pain. Within minutes, the staff nurse and emergency medical officer had checked his heart rate, blood pressure, blood sugar, and more importantly had conducted an echocardiogram (ECG).

The ECG result was WhatsApped to the hospital's medicine consultant, who diagnosed it as an ST-elevated myocardial infarction (STEMI) and asked the EMO to administer the drug tenecteplase. STEMI is a severe, life-threatening heart attack with significant coronary artery blockage. The injected drug tenecteplase is used for thrombolysis, or to dissolve the clot.

The patient received the injection within half an hour of his ECG results and soon felt better. Out of danger, he was referred to the Government Medical College in Patiala for further treatment.

This case was the 100th thrombolysis case at the hospital, the highest recorded by any centre in Punjab. A few years ago, any chest pain patient in secondary health centres like sub-divisional and district hospitals would have been immediately referred to medical colleges for further treatment. The 40-70 minutes that the patient would lose in transport and further diagnosis would mean irreversible damage to the heart muscles and their ability to work in future.

Since July 2025, the Punjab government has implemented Mission AMRIT (short for 'Acute Myocardial Reperfusion in Time'), where sub-divisional hospital and district hospital staff – the spokes – are equipped with drugs, equipment, and training to conduct thrombolysis under the guidance of a cardiologist or a specialist in the medical colleges, which are the hubs. When a person with STEMI reaches the spoke within up to 12 hours of a heart attack and no complications, they are thrombolysed and referred to a hub for further angiography and angioplasty.

Around 34,000 people with chest pain have been registered in the project's spokes in Ludhiana. Of them, 1,900 were diagnosed with STEMI and 900 received thrombolysis. The initiative has expanded the work of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) STEMI ACT project from 2020 to 2024.

According to Hitinder Kaur, director of Health Services of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab, STEMI patients receive Rs 35,000's worth of treatment free of cost within minutes.

The work continued during the 2025 floods and in challenging districts close to the border with Pakistan.

Getting appropriate care at the spokes has also greatly improved patient outcomes in medical colleges.

Amritsar's Government Medical Centre is a hub for six districts around it. In the last 10 months, it has received 272 patients who were thrombolysed at the spokes, of which 265 underwent angioplasty at the centre, Parminder Singh Manghera, assistant professor of cardiology here, said.

The project's success is due to the efforts of health officials like Ashu Gupta, of the Non-Communicable Diseases Cell of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, and Bishav Mohan, who led the ICMR project at Ludhiana.

Many of the emergency departments deal with infrastructure gaps, staff transfer and shortage, and high patient numbers, so keeping the overwhelmed medical teams motivated requires treating nurses as equal partners, using local languages in training and materials, awarding 'best performers' from the districts every month, and organising award ceremonies with the health minister, Dr Mohan said.

After the successful Tamil Nadu STEMI pilot showed a hub and spoke model could reduce mortality, it was implemented in Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and elsewhere. But including only the government hospitals as hubs reduces the model's efficacy, Thomas Alexander, who along with Ajit Mullasari piloted the TN-STEMI model, said. "Patients covered under government insurance schemes should have access to the nearest reperfusion centre – public or private – with safeguards to prevent overuse and overcharging," Dr. Alexander added.

In Punjab, a year after Mission AMRIT was implemented, some other limitations of the model have also become obvious--it relies on individual interest and effort at the spoke level and at present, there is no follow-up as to what happens to patients after they leave the spokes.

That said, thanks to the project, people are more aware and are turning up early: "We are seeing more women from villages above the age of 50 with symptoms turning up in spoke centres because it is close to home and accessible, we would have missed this demographic before," according to Dr Mohan.

(This article is the second of a three-part series by Nivarana, a digital public health platform, on the health system's response to emergency cardiac care in India. It is supported by Sunfox Technologies)

The ice apple is more than just a seasonal delicacy

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Come the summer months, April through August, and the fruit market across India is replete with the fruit ice apple, called '*nungu*' in Tamil, '*munjulu*' in Telugu, '*tadgola*' in Hindi, and '*taal*' in Bengali. It is largely found in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and in West Bengal.

Once you peel its outer skin, you find an ice-like fruit that tastes delicious. The tree is a member of the palm trees, commonly called palmyra. It is a tropical tree, and fruit, found in India, Bangladesh, and parts of Southeast Asia. It is the State tree of Tamil Nadu. Botanists say it is a member of the *Arecaceae* family and its name is *Borassus flabellifer*.

Ancient physicians in these regions used materials from the plant for medicinal purposes. Ancient Tamil literature describes it as a favoured plant with a sweet juice. The locals made jaggery and an alcohol-rich toddy from the plant. Ayurveda practitioners extracted the liquid from the tree's branches and body parts for use in a health-promoting drink called *neera*. The palm tree's leaves were also used as a writing instrument. Even today, the tree's branches are used to make mats, baskets, umbrellas, purses, and other handicraft materials in rural India.

Research on the plant biology of palmyra is actively going on in some parts of India, with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The Palmyra Research Station in Kasargod, Kerala, is studying how *neera* from the plant can be tapped better and the biological aspects of the tree. Researchers at the Palmyrah Research Station at Killikulam in Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu are involved in genetic analyses of the plant for better yield, and are also studying the optimal way to make jaggery from the fruit. In Assam, we have tropical rainforests, deciduous forests, and grasslands in the Brahmaputra Valley, and in some of these ecosystems, palmyra trees and their products are being studied to understand their properties and other uses.

A woman prepares ice apples at a roadside stall to eat. GETTY IMAGES

Palmyra trees and their fruits are also found in South and West Africa. A paper by Abe-Inge et al. from the Kwame Nkrumah University in Ghana, published in *American Journal of Food and Nutrition* in 2018 (DOI: 10.12691/ajf-6-5-2), discusses the palmyra palm and its fruits and shows that it is high in phenols and alkali ions with free radical scavenging properties.

Interestingly, the palmyra tree and '*nungu*' are also favourites of the people in our island neighbour Sri Lanka as well. Interested readers might want to read an article in *Food Chemistry Advances*, where a group of researchers from Jaffna have explored the nutritional, health, and economic potential of the palmyra fruit (vol. 6, March 2025, 100880). They have also given a variety of dishes using the outer layer of the tree, and sweets using the fruit.

While the above-mentioned papers from Ghana and Sri Lanka highlight some of the health benefits of ice apple, such as its antioxidant and anti-diabetic effects, some popular nutritionists in India as well as have discussed many of the fruit's nutritional benefits.

In the same vein, it would be worthwhile for the Palmyra Research Stations to assess the benefits, develop more varieties of the tree and the fruit, identify the molecules which offer the benefit, and even synthesise them.

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SNAPSHOTS

Elephants' decline portends dung beetle co-extinction

Elephants are keystone species that sustain savannah ecosystems. A long-term study in East Africa has reported that dung beetles depend heavily on elephant dung. Following a 15-year field experiment, researchers concluded that beetle species richness dropped by 23%, and total beetle biomass fell by 51% sans elephant dung. Smaller herbivores, like cattle or zebras, could not fill the gap. The elephants' decline could thus trigger a coextinction cascade that could also reduce seed dispersal.

Rice paper can be modified to recover e-waste gold

Researchers have found a way to use rice paper to recover gold from electronic waste. They modified the starch-based food material using a chemical process called hydrazination, which created a porous structure on the paper that quickly and selectively pulled gold from complex liquids, including dissolved CPU waste. It works by attracting gold ions and reducing them into solid gold nanoparticles on the paper's surface. Finally, the paper can be burnt to retrieve pure metallic gold.

Sea cucumber tissue lives on for years without decaying

Tissues from the sea cucumber can survive and grow independently for years. When scientists removed specific body parts and placed them in natural seawater, they thrived for more than three years without supplements. They also used immune cells to beat infections and absorbed nutrients from the water. This unique form of natural immortality challenges conventional views on biological decay and offers an ethical model for researchers to study healing.

Question Corner

Blowing cold and hot

When the temperature climbs to the mid-30s after a cooler weekend, does the heat feel worse?

Yes, and the reason is not just psychological. Researchers know of at least three reasons.

First, the human body adjusts surprisingly quickly to temperature. However, this also means that after even one or two cooler days, you may lose a bit of heat adaptation as your blood vessels are less prepared to expand and you may sweat less readily. So then, when the temperature jumps back to the mid-30s, the heat can feel more aggressive.

Second, humans perceive changes by comparison. A 35 C day after several 39 C days can seem manageable but after two 29-31 C days, it can seem oppressive.

The reason is that your nervous system is assessing the temperature according to the most recent baseline.

Finally, you may be sensing changes in temperature as well as humidity. After cooler days, humidity, cloud cover, wind, and the overnight minimum temperature also often change. A still, humid 35 C after pleasant weather can strain your body more than a dry and breezy 37 C after pleasant weather.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

Is India getting hotter?

Are the world's hottest cities mostly in India? How do urban heat islands work? Will the El Niño impact monsoons?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

Several cities in India are sweltering under heatwaves or quasi-heatwave-like conditions. The delayed onset of the monsoon and near certainty of an El Niño during the monsoon months of June-September will add to heat-related distress.

Was May 2026 an unusually hot month in India?

Not by daytime temperatures, and not nationally. The India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s outlook for May 2026 expected maximum temperatures to run 'normal' to 'below normal' across much of the country, with above-normal readings limited to the southern peninsula and parts of the north-east and north-west. Normal in most cases refers to a 30-year average temperature at a specific station and varies significantly. Above-normal heatwave days were forecast only for specific regions – the Himalayan foothills, the east-coast States, Gujarat, and Maharashtra – while all-India rainfall for May was projected to exceed 110% of the long-period average. The clearer signal is the long-term one: an IMD study of the Core Heatwave Zone (CHZ) over 1961-2020 found heatwave frequency rising 0.1 days per decade and duration 0.44 days per decade, both statistically significant trends. The study also found that nights warmed faster than days, at roughly 0.21°C per decade. The CHZ includes Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Telangana, plus the meteorological subdivisions of Marathwada, Vidarbha, and Madhya Maharashtra, and coastal Andhra Pradesh. Heatwaves are becoming more frequent and longer over the decades, but May 2026 itself was a wet, regionally uneven month rather than a record-setting one.

> When a city replaces soil and vegetation with concrete and asphalt, those surfaces absorb heat during the day and release it slowly at night

A widely shared list claimed all 50 of the world's hottest cities were in India in April. How sound is that?

It should be read with caution. The ranking, compiled by an air-quality website, captured a single day – April 27, 2026 – and presented it as a climate signal. One day cannot establish a trend, as the article itself acknowledges. The list was drawn from the cities the website monitors, overwhelmingly in north and central India. The absence of cities from West Asia, Africa, or Australia reflects the composition of the dataset. Ranking by 24-hour average temperature also favours places with warm nights and penalises desert cities that cool sharply after dark, which is why Rajasthan, home to India's all-time temperature record, appeared near the bottom. The figures also came from the website's own index rather than primary IMD station data, with no published method for the averages.

Was April 2026 hotter than April 2025?

By daytime temperatures, April 2026 was generally cooler. IMD attributed the relatively mild March and April to an unusually active run of western disturbances that brought above-normal rainfall. A year earlier, IMD had forecast above-normal maximum temperatures across most of the country for April 2025. The moderation in 2026, however, was largely a daytime effect: night-time temperatures stayed elevated, running about 2.2°C above normal in Delhi and 2.4°C in Punjab. The national average also masked sharp local extremes.

How do urban heat islands work, and what role does air-conditioning play?

When a city replaces soil and vegetation with concrete and asphalt, those surfaces absorb heat during the day and release it slowly at night. Combined with reduced evaporative cooling, low surface reflectivity, poor ventilation, and waste heat, this can make Indian cities 2-10°C hotter than surrounding rural areas, with the gap largest at night. Air-conditioning compounds it: each unit cools an interior by expelling heat outdoors.

Are urban heat islands a bigger driver of heat than climate change?

The evidence suggests not, in most cities. A 2024 study in *Nature Cities* found Indian cities warming at about 0.53°C per decade, against 0.26°C per decade for the country as a whole. But it attributed only around 38% of that urban warming to urbanisation itself, an enhancement of roughly 60% on top of the regional, climate-driven warming. Urban and background warming were strongly correlated, indicating that regional climate change drives much of the urban signal.

How will the emerging El Niño affect temperatures and the monsoon?

It raises the risk of a hotter, drier season. El Niño tends to weaken the monsoon's moisture-bearing uplift, which can lengthen dry "break" spells and trigger humid heatwaves across the north-west.

Why is CBSE's evaluation system facing flak?

What is the On-Screen Marking system and why is it under scrutiny? What is its history? Has it been successful elsewhere? Why did CBSE introduce it and how did it pan out? How has the Board responded to the crisis?

G. Sampath

The story so far:

Following the release of the Class 12 Board exam results, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has been under fire for discrepancies in the evaluation of answer scripts and malfunctioning of the re-evaluation process. The newly introduced On-Screen Marking (OSM) system is under scrutiny, given the widespread sense among students that the marks they received did not match their expectations. The CBSE's pass percentage has dipped to 85.29% this year from 88.39% last year, with the number of students scoring above 90% also dropping.

Due to the sheer volume of requests for answer book copies, the post-results verification portal crashed. As for students who did manage to obtain scanned copies of their answer books, they got a shock when they discovered blurred or missing pages, and unmarked answers. Many even received answer books of other students. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports has summoned senior officials from the Union Education Ministry and CBSE Chairman Rahul Singh for a meeting on June 2 to review the use of OSM and the problems faced by the students.

What is On-Screen Marking?

It is a form of digital evaluation of exam answer sheets. Hand-written answer books are digitally scanned, anonymised, and uploaded online. Instead of checking paper copies with a pen, teachers log into a dedicated platform to access the scanned answer books and correct papers on a computer screen, under video surveillance.

What is the history of OSM in India?

The CBSE tried out OSM on a smaller scale in 2013-14. Due to inadequate digital infrastructure and limited digital literacy, the experiment was not a big success. Then it proposed testing the OSM in 2024-25 on "small-volume subjects" where there would be fewer candidates. The idea was to sort out glitches before scaling up. In June 2025, members of the CBSE's governing body suggested that OSM "may be implemented in all subjects only after completion of pilot projects in some subjects across various regional offices of the board." But the CBSE ignored the advice of its own governing body. Without adequate pilot testing, it went in for full-scale adoption of OSM across all subjects in 2026.

> Amid the ballooning crisis, the CBSE extended the deadline for requesting scanned copies, and also kept revising the fees for these services

NSUI activists raise slogans during a protest, alleging irregularities in the CBSE's On-Screen Marking evaluation system, in New Delhi. PTI

Were teachers able to familiarise themselves with OSM before it was rolled out?

The first Class 12 Board exam was on February 17, but teachers were informed of OSM implementation barely 10 days earlier. This was a time when teachers were busy with exams in schools, and many had duties as Booth Level Officers as well. Many did not get enough time to familiarise themselves with the user interface of the portal, and learn how to scroll, how to mark, and how to go back and recheck if they had missed something. As a result, many did not have enough practice by the time they came to the evaluation centres for the OSM.

What was the CBSE's rationale for switching from physical marking to OSM?

In a circular dated February 9, the CBSE listed several benefits of moving to OSM. These included elimination of totalling errors, reduced manual intervention, faster evaluation, elimination of the need for post-result verification of marks, and reduced manpower requirements for verification. But these benefits did not materialise. Class 12 exams were given by 17 lakh students. This meant that 98 lakh answer books, or 40 crore pages, had to be manually scanned in record time. These also had to be checked for legibility before being made available for evaluation. The benefit of reduced manual intervention did not appear to have materialised. Nor is there evidence that OSM reduced totalling errors or accelerated evaluation. Contrary to CBSE's claims, requests for "post-result verification" have shot up compared to previous years.

Has OSM been used successfully elsewhere? If yes, why did CBSE struggle?

Yes, it has been used successfully by exam boards such as Cambridge (U.K.) and International Baccalaureate (IB) and in countries such as Singapore and Australia. But these have far fewer exam centres and students, and more centralised scanning infrastructure, than CBSE. OSM has been known to work well in an ecosystem of well-resourced, digitally ready private schools, such as those under Cambridge and IB. In contrast, CBSE's 33,000 affiliated schools include government, rural, and semi-urban schools with uneven digital infrastructure and teacher training.

What is the controversy with the firm contracted to deliver OSM for CBSE?

Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi has alleged corruption in CBSE's selection of COEMPT Eduteck as the OSM vendor and demanded a judicial inquiry. In a video statement, he said, "The company that did the OSM for your exams was actually called Globarena. And Globarena has carried out this scam twice in Telengana... [in 2019 and 2023]." He claimed that though this company's track record was known, for "some hidden" reason, the CBSE chose it for the assignment. The CBSE has claimed that COEMPT was chosen "in accordance with the procurement policy" of the government.

What was Sarthak Sidhant's viral blog on CBSE about?

A Class 12 student, Sarthak Sidhant, published an investigative blog post which appeared to show that COEMPT Eduteck was the beneficiary of a rigged tendering process. After poring over CBSE's tenders and multiple Request for Proposals, he claimed to have found that the "CBSE did not just pick a bad software vendor by accident. They lowered financial baselines. They dropped software security certifications. They cut the corrupt practices cooling-off period in half. They removed the physical server isolation requirement. They erased the word 'blacklisting' from their penalty matrix via a last-minute corrigendum, before bidding, and they bypassed their own mandatory CERT-In production audits. They gambled with our data security, our marks, and our mental health."

What were the problems with the re-evaluation portal?

CBSE's portal for obtaining copies of answer sheets went live on May 19. As more than 4 lakh students requested scanned copies of answer sheets, the portal crashed, forcing CBSE to put the site under maintenance.

How did the CBSE respond?

Amid the ballooning crisis, the CBSE extended the deadline for requesting scanned copies, and also kept revising the fees for these services, leading to confusion among parents and students. Following a public uproar, it began responding individually on social media to affected students. It roped in experts from the Indian Institutes of Technology, Madras and Kanpur to resolve the technical challenges, and has announced that the designated portal for verification and re-evaluation will now go live from June 1 to "ensure a transparent and glitch-free process." Meanwhile, it has also launched a public relations campaign by circulating a social media messaging kit to school principals, directing them to post reels defending OSM and CBSE. These included a statement describing CBSE as "highly proactive, empathetic, and communicative regarding these teething issues."

Why is India pushing for coal gasification?

What is coal gasification and how does it have the potential to substitute imports? What technical challenges does high-ash Indian coal pose for gasification? Where does India stand with respect to coal gasification and related technology?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

In a roadshow promoting surface coal gasification, Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy said the technology, which can also yield a range of downstream products, has the potential to substitute imports worth up to ₹3 lakh crore. To encourage coal gasification, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹37,500-crore incentive package.

What is coal gasification?

Coal gasification entails the conversion of coal into synthetic gas, or syngas, which can be further used to produce downstream products such as urea, methanol, ammonium nitrate, synthetic natural gas (SNG), hydrogen, ether, and dimethyl, among others.

According to government data, India possesses approximately 401 billion tonnes of coal and about 47 billion tonnes of lignite. The rationale behind coal gasification is greater utilisation of these resources besides putting in place a sustainable mining method to produce the downstream products. This, the government believes, will reduce import dependence.

> The high-ash content of Indian coal also differentiates the gasification technology that could be employed in India from that in other countries such as China, Australia, or the U.S.

File photo shows coal being loaded onto trucks in Piparwar, about 70 km from Ranchi in Jharkhand. PTI

According to the Union Coal Ministry, India imports one-fifth of its urea requirement, almost its entire ammonia requirement, and approximately 80-90% of its methanol requirement.

The Ministry has set itself a target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030. With the recently announced scheme in place, the government aims to support the gasification of about 75 million tonnes of coal and/or lignite to reach its 2030 target.

Where does India stand with coal gasification at present?

Before the ₹37,500-crore package was announced this year, the government had approved an ₹8,500 crore package in January 2024. Of this, ₹6,233 crore has been disbursed to eight projects owned by private sector and public-sector undertakings. These include projects being executed through separate joint ventures of Coal India with Bharat Heavy Electricals and Gas Authority of India Ltd, and as well as Coal India's own project in Western Coalfields. Private-sector participants include companies such as Jindal Steel and Greta Energy and Metal.

The Talcher Coal-based Ammonia-urea complex is expected to be commissioned in FY2027-28. The others that include conversion of coal to syngas, ammonium nitrate, direct reduced iron, ethanol, and hydrogen are expected to be commissioned in FY2029-30. In April this year, in response to a query from *The Hindu*, the Ministry had stated that "in the coming months, more projects are expected to be sanctioned".

Where does India stand with respect to the technology for coal gasification?

Large-scale commercial deployment of gasification in India hinges on navigating issues such as the high ash content of coal, variability in its gross calorific value, and the presence of complex mineral matter, all of which can impede the gasification process. This is why fluidised-bed gasification is considered particularly suitable for Indian coal. The technology utilises a gas stream that lifts the coal out of ash, thereafter gasifying it with heat.

The high-ash content of Indian coal also differentiates the gasification technology that could be employed in India from that in other countries such as China, which is the world leader in gasification, Australia, or the U.S.

Another aspect relates to the adequate presence of indigenous technology. By their very nature, coal gasification projects are highly capital-intensive and involve long gestation periods. According to independent research by the Chintan Research Foundation (published March 2026), "Recent techno-economic assessments of circulating fluidised bed gasifiers in the Indian context indicate that capital costs constitute the largest share of syngas production costs, accounting for nearly 30% of the total production costs." Thus, financial viability becomes particularly imperative. It is for this reason that the latest package, which provides financial incentives amounting to one-fifth of plant and machinery costs, is essential.

For perspective, state-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd has developed their pressured fluidised bed gasifier technology tailored specifically to handle the high ash content and variability of Indian coal. Additionally, according to Niti Aayog, its 16 facilities are capable of producing all the critical components required for gasification. In the private sector, Jindal Steel Ltd and Greta Energy and Metal have been able to indigenise about 80-90% of their production. Naveen Ahlawat, Head of Sustainability and Decarbonisation at Jindal Steel, said: "It (indigenising technology) will save costs; your project cost will come down by 30-40%."

At its maturing stages, coal gasification may still require technological imports. It for this reason that industry has also sought the government's consideration of exemptions from provisions of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade for acquiring necessary technologies, especially from China. Officials said that the Ministry would support participants in securing clearances for technology imports, though the regulatory requirement will continue.

The strait where America stalled

Hormuz

The waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea has emerged as the most consequential battleground of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, with Tehran effectively taking control of the route and rattling energy markets and the global economy

Stanly Johny

Tehran's Milad Tower, the tallest structure in Iran, stands as a symbol of the revolutionary state's engineering ambitions. Rising 435 metres, including its 120-metre antenna, the tower's octagonal concrete shaft joins a pod with 12 floors housing observation decks, a cafe and a museum. Above it, the antenna pierces Tehran's smoggy skyline. From the deck of the 12th floor, the highest point accessible to visitors, one can take in the vast sprawl of the city, made the capital of the Persian Empire in the late 18th century by Agha Muhammad Khan, founder of the Qajar dynasty. To the north rise the Alborz mountains, the natural barrier separating the Iranian plateau from the Caspian Sea.

Inside the museum, a large 18th-century map of the Gulf drawn by a French cartographer is on display. "You may have heard some countries call the Persian Gulf the Arabian Gulf today," a local travel assistant told this writer during a visit in February 2022. "Look at this map and reach your own conclusions." A young woman, who described herself as "a huge fan" of Amitabh Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, the assistant pointed to the mouth of the Gulf on the map. "This is the Strait of Hormuz," she said. "This is the gate of the Persian Gulf. And the Iranians hold its key." It is this geographical key that Iran used to effectively shut the strait after coming under attack by the U.S. and Israel on February 28.

The strait is a narrow corridor, 50 km wide at its entrance and exit, connecting the Persian Gulf waters to the Gulf of Oman, which joins the Arabian Sea. At its narrowest point, between Iran in the north and Oman's Musandam Peninsula in the south – an exclave separated from mainland Oman by UAE territory – the waterway is just 33 km wide, which means it falls within the overlapping territorial waters of Iran and Oman.

As the only gateway to the high seas from the Persian Gulf, the Hormuz Strait has remained one of the world's most important waterways for centuries. In modern times, separate shipping lanes, as wide as 2 nautical miles, have been marked for inbound and outbound vessels. There is a buffer zone of around 2 nautical miles between the shipping lanes. So the tankers carrying fuel and gas typically navigated highly constrained waters even before the war.

In the 1980s, during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, both sides targeted fuel tankers in the Persian Gulf, effectively weaponising the waters. In recent years, Iran had repeatedly warned that it would close the waterway if it came under attack. There are eight major islands in the strait, seven of which are controlled by Iran. Islands such as Qeshm, Hormuz, Larak, and Abu Musa sit closer to the shipping lanes, giving Iran a commanding physical advantage over the route. The ownership of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands is contested between Iran and the UAE, but they are de facto controlled and administered by Tehran.

Strategic significance

The strait's strategic significance grew after the oil discoveries in the Persian Gulf region in the early 20th century. The post-War oil boom transformed the entire region. All Gulf countries – Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait – have been more or less dependent on the strait to get access to the Arabian Sea.

During 2023-25, 20% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) and 25% of seaborne oil passed through the strait. In 2025 alone, 20 million barrels of oil and oil products passed through this route every day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. About 3,000 ships sailed through the strait each month before the war. Hormuz is also a key route for exports of fertilizer from the region, and Gulf countries import food, medicines and tech products through this route.

In June 2025, when Israel bombed Iran, Tehran's response was largely limited to striking back at Israel. After the U.S. joined the war and attacked Iran's nuclear facilities, Tehran carried out a token attack on the American base in Qatar and agreed to a ceasefire. The 12-Day War, as it's known, did not pose any direct threat to traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. But in early 2026, when the U.S. was mobilising forces in the region amid threats of another war, Iran had warned that it would retaliate by striking American bases and shutting down the strait. The U.S. and Israel started the war on February 28 by assassinating Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and Iran responded by doing what it had vowed to do. It retaliated by attacking Israel and Arab countries in the Gulf. And it took control of the strait. The number of ships passing through the strait daily, which was more than 100 before the war, fell by over 90%.

During the 40 days of bombing, the U.S. and Israel caused immense material damage to Iran. Its aerial and naval infrastructure has been repeatedly hit. But such attacks weren't enough to force Iran, which used asymmetric warfare to weaponise the waters, to reopen the strait. Iran used cheap, disruptive weapons to impose disproportionate costs on the vessels that ignored its restrictions. Several ships that sought to pass the strait without the IRGC's permission came under attack. Fuel prices started rising. Insurance and shipping costs soared. Energy-import-dependent economies, particularly India, were hit hard.

Contested terms

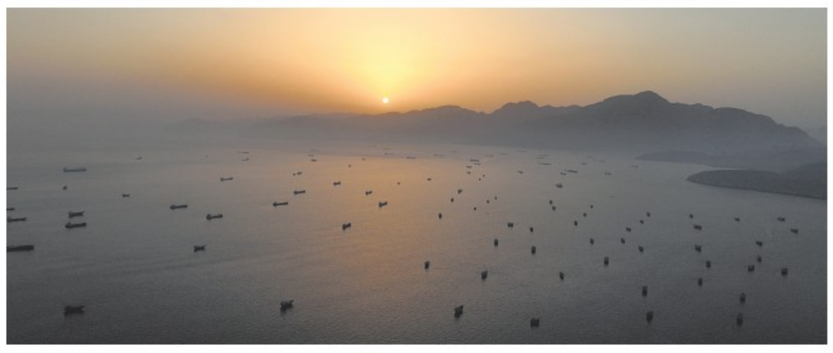
When U.S. President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire with Iran on April 8, he said Iran would reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The truce came into effect, but both sides differed on its terms. Iran demanded a ceasefire in Lebanon as well, but Israel actually stepped up bombing of Lebanon. Mr. Trump later announced a ceasefire in Lebanon and "prevented" Israel from bombing the country – but the bombing campaign continued. When Iran refused to reopen the strait, Mr. Trump, on April 12, announced a blockade of Iranian ports. In response, Iran cancelled direct negotiations with the U.S., and pushed the nuclear file down its priority list.

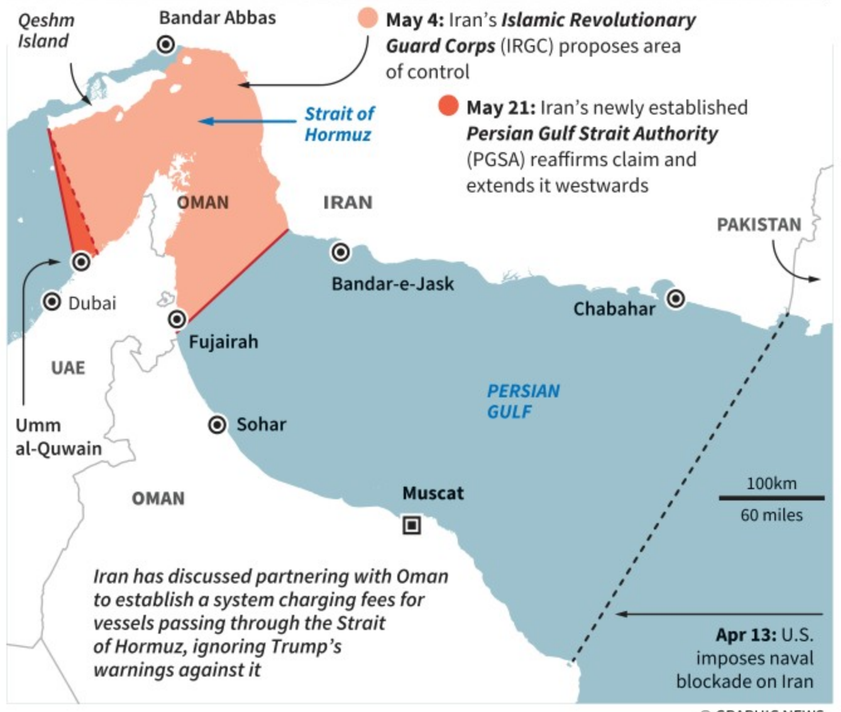
Mr. Trump has repeatedly said he was close to reaching a deal with Iran. He wants Iran to reopen the strait in return for the lifting of the U.S. blockade. And Iran should abandon its nuclear programme. Iran, on its side, has established a new body, the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, to manage traffic through and maintain the Hormuz Strait, defying Mr. Trump's demands. The PGSA has introduced a new email-based permit system for vessels and says all ships passing through the strait should coordinate with the agency. Result: a diplomatic logjam.

One of Mr. Trump's key demands for a deal today is that Iran should reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which was fully open before Mr. Trump and his ally Benjamin Netanyahu launched this war on February 28.

Iran expands claim

Tehran took control of the strait after the U.S. and Israel launched the war





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THE GIST

- The strait is a narrow corridor, 50 km wide at its entrance and exit, connecting the Persian Gulf waters to the Gulf of Oman, which joins the Arabian Sea
- At its narrowest point, between Iran in the north and Oman's Musandam Peninsula in the south, the waterway is just 33 km wide
- As the only gateway to the high seas from the Persian Gulf, the Hormuz Strait has remained one of the world's most important waterways for centuries

'Rock' of Congress

D.K. Shivakumar

The party's crisis manager, known for his organisational skills and grassroots networks, is set to become Karnataka's Chief Minister

Nagesh Prabhu

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Eight-time MLA Doddaalahalli Kempegowda Shivakumar, popularly called 'DKShi', has established himself as one of Karnataka's most resourceful Congress leaders. With Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's resignation, the Congress party's principal strategist and trouble-shooter in South India, is set to get the top job in Karnataka.

A firm believer in Hindu cultural identity and religious practices, Mr. Shivakumar is known for frequently saying, "Efforts may fail, but prayers do not." The phrase often served as his cryptic response to persistent speculation over the chief ministerial power tussle in recent months.

The 64-year-old combined political networking in Delhi's power corridors with formidable grassroots control in his home turf – a strategy that helped him establish himself both a politician and businessman. With declared family assets worth hundreds of crores, he is among the wealthiest legislators in India.

Born on May 15, 1962, into a modest agrarian Vokkaliga family in Kanakapura in Bengaluru South district, D.K. Shivakumar entered politics at a young age through student activism and the Youth Congress. Despite lacking a political lineage, he steadily built a grassroots network in the Old Mysore region, particularly among the land-owning Vokkaliga community.

His first major political test came in 1985, when the relatively unknown 23-year-old Congress candidate took on H.D. Deve Gowda in the erstwhile Sathanur constituency and suffered a narrow defeat. The contest earned him recognition within the Congress for his aggressive political style and organisational abilities.

In 1989, he was elected to the Karnataka Legislative Assembly for the first time from Sathanur. Since then, he has remained electorally undefeated. Mr. Shivakumar first became a Minister at the age of 30 in the S. Bangarappa Cabinet, handling the Prisons portfolio.

In 1994, after the Congress denied him a ticket, he contested as an Independent and won.

His rivalry with former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's family became a defining feature of his political career. In 1999, he defeated H.D. Kumaraswamy in the Sathanur constituency. He cemented his political stature in 2004 when he played a key role in helping journalist and Congress candidate Tejaswini Gowda defeat Deve Gowda in the Lok Sabha elections from the erstwhile Kanakapura constituency.

National prominence

His national prominence grew significantly during episodes of political instability. In 2017, he hosted Congress MLAs from Gujarat at a Bengaluru resort to safeguard Ahmed Patel's prospects in the Rajya Sabha elections. He had played a similar role in 2002 when Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh faced a no-confidence motion.

In 2019, Mr. Shivakumar was at the centre of efforts to protect Congress and JD (S) MLAs during the political crisis that eventually led to the collapse of the coalition government headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy. These episodes strengthened his reputation as the Congress party's chief "crisis manager" but also brought him under intense scrutiny from central investigative agencies. In 2019, he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case and spent 50 days in Delhi's Tihar Jail before being granted bail.

Mr. Shivakumar is often referred to in sections of the media as 'Kanakapura Bande' (Rock of Kanakapura), a nickname reflecting both his resilient political persona and his refusal to be intimidated by central investigative agencies.

Despite legal and political challenges, Mr. Shivakumar's stature within the Congress continued to rise. As State Congress president, he played a key role in the party's victory in the 2023 Assembly elections.

That steadfast loyalty has made him indispensable to the Gandhi family and the Congress high command. In an era when political defections have become commonplace, it has also made him something of an exception. His refrain – "I am a born Congressman; I will die as a Congressman" – remains his constant reminder to party workers about the importance of loyalty.

Mr. Shivakumar's long-standing vow to keep his beard until he becomes Chief Minister is finally set to end.

The manager who stood tall

Pep Guardiola

The player-turned-coach is leaving Manchester City after delivering one of the most successful eras in the club's history

Anirudh Velamuri

Having scaled the summits of Spanish and European football with FC Barcelona and imposed his will upon Germany with Bayern Munich, Pep Guardiola arrived at Manchester City in the summer of 2016 carrying an almost mythological reputation. His credentials were beyond dispute. Yet in England, one question followed him everywhere: Could Guardiola do it on a cold, windy Tuesday night in Stoke?

It was the same challenge English football had thrown at every perceived outsider, every revolutionary coach or manager, who dared suggest there was another way to play the game.

Whatever Guardiola achieved elsewhere seemingly counted for little until he proved himself in football's self-proclaimed toughest hunting ground.

By December, the doubters smelt blood. Defending champion Leicester City, drifting uncomfortably close to the relegation zone, tore through Manchester City and triumphed 4-2. To Guardiola's critics, it felt like vindication. Possession football, intricate passing, inverted full-backs and positional play – perhaps these ideas were too delicate for the relentless chaos of English football.

If the defeat poured fuel on the fire of criticism, it also ignited something within Guardiola himself, who commendably doubled down. To say that a decade later, the debate is settled would be an understatement. A silverware haul that resembles a monument bears testimony. Six Premier League titles. Five League Cups. Three FA Cups. A Champions League crown. Add to that a UEFA Super Cup and a FIFA Club World Cup. As he prepares to move on, Guardiola's reign will be defined by his ability to bend opponents to his will through control. As Frank Sinatra once sang, he faced it all, stood tall, and did it his way.

When he walked into La Masia, Barcelona's famed academy, as a 13-year-old, Guardiola stood apart almost immediately. Where others saw congestion, he saw space. He could anticipate patterns before they emerged, his clarity often bordering on obsession.

Under Johan Cruyff, that rare footballing intelligence found its perfect home. As the cerebral heartbeat of Barcelona's Dream Team, Guardiola dictated tempo and direction with the composure of a conductor leading a symphony. He finished with a decorated resume, including four consecutive La Liga titles and Barcelona's first European Cup.

Bigger debt

But it is to Guardiola, the manager, that history owes a bigger debt. When he first stepped into the bullring, the scepticism was immediate. Too young. Too idealistic to lead Barcelona back to dominance. A maiden treble – La Liga, Copa del Rey, Champions League – was quite the answer. The foundations of what we now know to be a new order were being laid.

Barcelona's football was not only effective but expressive, a demonstration of what collective intelligence could look like when fully realised. The fruit? Fourteen trophies in four years and the evolution of a certain Lionel Messi from prodigy to phenomenon.

And then, Guardiola left, looking for a new challenge. After a year's break, he took over Bayern Munich, which was fresh from a treble under Jupp Heynckes.

After winning seven trophies in three years, another departure followed, and this time, the Premier League waited. Impatiently, and perhaps uneasily. The rest, as they say, is history. Twenty major trophies followed, including the elusive Champions League – three more than the club had won in its 136 years before his arrival.

Beyond the pitch, Guardiola was unapologetically political, speaking about Catalonia's right to self-determination, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the suffering in Gaza caused by Israeli attacks, and humanitarian crises in Sudan, often framing them in moral rather than political terms.

At the same time, his guarded responses on issues involving the UAE, whose ruling family owns Manchester City, fuelled accusations of inconsistency. It is within that space, between expression and restraint, that Guardiola's wider reputation has taken shape. Taken together, it leaves a figure who resists simple classification. A coach who reshaped how the game is played, while also navigating, imperfectly at times, the responsibilities that come with visibility.

WASHINGTON

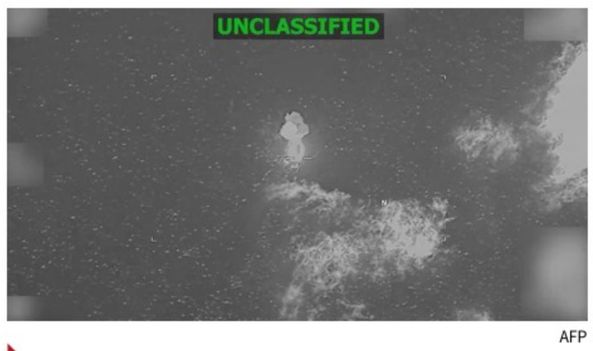
Senior U.S. and Cuban military officers meet at Guantanamo Bay

AFP

Senior U.S. and Cuban military officers met on Friday at Guantanamo Bay, the U.S. base on the communist island, as relations between the two countries deteriorate. Cuba's Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces stressed that "both delegations consider the meeting to have been positive". AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. boat strike kills three alleged drug smugglers in Eastern Pacific



AFP

The U.S. military conducted a lethal strike on a boat "engaged in narco-trafficking operations" in the Eastern Pacific on Friday, killing three men, officials said. It was the third deadly attack within the week, bringing the total number of those killed to at least 198 since the Trump administration began its offensive in September. AFP

KABUL

Truck carrying refugees crashes in eastern Afghanistan, killing 22

AP

A truck carrying Afghan refugees returning from neighbouring Pakistan overturned on a highway in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, killing at least 22 people and injuring about 36 others, most of them women and children. The accident occurred when the truck fell into a ditch after the driver fell asleep. AP

LOS ANGELES

Oscar-winning *Star Wars* editor Marcia Lucas passes away at 80

AP

Marcia Lucas, who won an Oscar as editor of the original 1977 *Star Wars* and was part of a group of women whose editing was essential to film's New Hollywood era, has died from metastatic cancer, a lawyer for her family said on Friday. She was 80. Lucas was often called the unsung hero of *Star Wars*. AP

Hegseth backs Trump's India-Pak. ceasefire claim at Shangri-La meet

India has consistently disputed third-party mediation, saying the understanding was reached directly between two nations; Pentagon chief warns of 'rightful alarm' over China's historic military build-up but says U.S. seeks 'stable equilibrium' in Asia

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on Saturday credited President Donald Trump with helping broker peace between India and Pakistan, while describing New Delhi as a key partner in Washington's Indo-Pacific strategy.

Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Mr. Hegseth referred to the understanding reached between India and Pakistan after their military confrontation last year and praised Mr. Trump's role in easing tensions.

"You saw that in the ability of the President to come together on brokering a peace between India and Pakistan, two nuclear capable countries," Mr. Hegseth said.

Delegates view U.S Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's speech on a screen at Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday. REUTERS

Mr. Trump has repeatedly claimed that he helped secure peace between India and Pakistan following a four-day military conflict last year triggered by the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam that killed 26 people. India, however, has consistently maintained that the understanding was reached directly between the two countries and has rejected claims of third-party mediation.

The Pentagon chief said both India and Pakistan would continue to view each other through the prism of security concerns.

Mr. Hegseth also struck a measured tone towards China, noting "rightful alarm" over Beijing's military build-up but saying Washington sought a "stable equilibrium" in Asia.

"When we look across the region today, there is rightful alarm regarding China's historic military build-up and the expansion of its military activities in the region and beyond," Mr. Hegseth said.

Washington does not seek "needless confrontation" but rather "a genuinely stable equilibrium [in Asia] that works for Americans as well as our allies", he said.

Mr. Hegseth's remarks came as he outlined Washington's broader Indo-Pacific strategy, which he said was aimed at preserving regional stability while ensuring that no single power could dominate the region.

U.S. warns it is capable of resuming war with Iran

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States warned on Saturday it was "more than capable" of resuming war with Iran after President Donald Trump said any peace deal must adhere to his red lines, including Tehran never being able to develop nuclear weapons.

The White House had signalled that Mr. Trump was close to a decision on a potential deal, though Tehran denied there was a final agreement on ending the conflict.

U.S. sources had said that the deal was waiting on Mr. Trump's sign-off, but he made no decision after a White House Situation Room meeting on Friday.

Meanwhile, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, while attending a defence summit in Singapore, said on Saturday that Washington was "more than capable" of restarting the war.

U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) posted on X that American forces "remain present and vigilant across the region".

The efforts to reach a deal were thrown into question this week by U.S. strikes on Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, countered by retaliatory Iranian fire.

Iran's *IRNA* state news agency said air defences shot down a drone "belonging to the U.S.-Zionist aggressor enemy" on Saturday, citing a statement from the army.

Strong dissent: Women wave Iran's national flags during an anti-U.S. and anti-Israel protest in Tehran on Friday. AFP

Ukrainian drones strike oil depot, port in south Russia

Reuters
MOSCOW

Ukrainian drones struck a tanker at Russia's port of Taganrog overnight and hit an oil depot in the city of Armavir, authorities in the southern regions of Rostov and Krasnodar said on Saturday.

Rostov region Governor Yury Slyusar said on Telegram that fires on the tanker and in the port of Taganrog – a city of about 2.4 lakh – had been extinguished, with no oil spill reported. Two persons were injured, he said.

The city's mayor, Svetlana Kambulova, said a local state of emergency, introduced on May 27, had been extended. Russia's Defence Ministry said that its forces had downed 127 drones overnight.

In the neighbouring Krasnodar region, authorities in Armavir, which has a population of 1.85 lakh, said a fire at an oil depot in the city's industrial zone had been brought under control and that there were no injuries.

Smoke rising from oil infrastructure in the southern Krasnodar region of Russia following a Ukrainian drone strike in April. AP

Rostov governor Slyusar said that almost 50 drones had been downed in the region, with attacks reported across the province, which borders Ukraine's Donbas, the focus of fighting between Russia and Ukraine. Outside Taganrog, he said, only minor damage was reported.

The commander of Ukraine's drone forces said they had struck Taganrog, as well as an oil depot in Feodosiya in Russian-controlled Crimea. He made no mention of a strike on Armavir.

Israel launches more strikes in south Lebanon; two hurt

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israel launched strikes across south Lebanon on Saturday after ordering evacuations from more than a dozen locations a day after its premier Benjamin Netanyahu said Israeli forces had pushed even deeper into Lebanese territory.

Lebanon's Army said a "targeted" Israeli strike wounded two soldiers in the southern city of Nabatieh, just a day after military delegations from both countries held landmark security talks in Washington.

The Lebanese presidency announced in a statement that President Joseph Aoun and Prime Minister Nawaf Salam had agreed "to intensify contacts" ahead of the new round of talks with Israel scheduled for June 2 and 3.

The Israeli military's evacuation warnings for Saturday included some villages near Nabatieh and some in the east of the country. Hezbollah said it fired rockets at the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona.

A truce to halt the fighting between the two sides officially took effect on April 17, but has never been observed.

WHO chief visits epicentre of Ebola outbreak in DR Congo

Associated Press
BUNIA

The head of the World Health Organization on Saturday arrived in eastern Congo's Bunia, a city at the heart of an outbreak of a rare type of Ebola, where the virus still spreads faster than the response, despite better-organised health facilities and new aid arrivals.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is expected to visit a treatment centre and meet local authorities, health workers and affected families in Bunia.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

"The best way to address this is to provide all the necessary support to fight the disease at its epicentre and to continue offering every assistance needed," Mr. Tedros told presspersons late Friday.

The WHO said on Friday that authorities have reported 906 suspected cases and 223 suspected deaths. Neighbouring Uganda has confirmed nine cases and one death, the Ugandan Ministry of Health said on Friday.

The Bundibugyo virus, the current kind of Ebola, has no approved treatment or vaccine.

"This is a difficult situation, and we recognise that. But the DR Congo has faced the Ebola virus many times before. We are confident that it can once again bring this outbreak under control," Mr. Tedros said.

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SADASHIVANAGAR, BENGALURU – 560 080

RE-ADVERTISEMENT - CALL FOR APPLICATIONS / NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR
Advt. No. 13 / 2026, Dt. 30.05.2026

RRI invites Applications / Nominations, from eminent Academicians / Researchers with substantial experience and achievements in the area of Physical Sciences for the **Position of Director,** who is an Indian National. The Director is the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the Institute and will have the overall administrative control of the Institute and will provide high-level leadership to the Institute in identification of research programmes and projects of national and international relevance in various specialized fields of research undertaken by the Institute.
The incumbent will be appointed on Direct Recruitment / Deputation, including short-term Contract / Re-Employment. The present age of superannuation is 60 years. The Applicant's / Nominee's age should not exceed **56 years** and she / he should be an Indian Citizen. The crucial date for determining the age limit is **01 January 2026. The position carries the apex scale of Pay Level 17, i.e. ₹ 2,25,000/- per month** as per the Revised Pay Rules, 2016 of the Government of India.
The Last Date for Receipt of Applications / Nominations is 30 June 2026.
The detailed advertisement can be viewed at
https://www.rri.res.in/ careers/ regular-other-openings

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer Co-ordination & Planning,
4th Flr, Jayanagara Old Shopping Complex,
Jayanagara 4th block, Bengaluru-560011
No:EE(COP)/BSCC/Kppp/TN-01/2026-27/Call-2 **Date:30-05-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Co-ordination & Planning, Zone-1 BSCC, invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BSCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Services detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1	Providing Control Room Zone-1 in Bengaluru South City Corporation under disaster management for the year 2026-27 **Amount put to tender (In Rupees & Including GST): ₹. 1,00,00,000/- EMD Amount: ₹. 2,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or **08-06-2026** before **4:00** pm.(2) Last Date & Time for Receipts of tenders on **08-06-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Technical Bid opening Date: **09-06-2026** at **5.00** PM. (4) Financial Bid will be intimated to the bidders.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Co-ordination & Planning, BSCC

மத்திய சித்த மருத்துவ ஆராய்ச்சிக் குழுமம்
(ஆயுஷ் அமைச்சகம், இந்திய அரசு)
ஜி.எஸ்.டி. சாலை, தாம்பரம் சானடோரியம், சென்னை–600047.
केंद्रीय सिद्ध अनुसन्धान परिषद्
(आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
जी.एस.टी. रोड, तांबरम सानटोरियम, चेन्नई - 600047.
CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN SIDDHA
(Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)
GST Road, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai – 600 047.
Phone: 044-2621 2421, 2621 1621, e-mail: ccrs-ayush@gov.in, www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in

Advt. No.03/2026

Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS), invites applications for the following positions for various Projects under Intra Mural Research (IMR) and other Contractual positions:

Sl.No	Name of Position	Number of Posts	Place of posting
1.	Consultant (Tamil)	02	CCRS, HQ., Chennai. & SRRI, Puducherry.
2.	Consultant (IT)	01	SCRI, Chennai.
3.	Retired Govt. Clerical Staff	02	CCRS, HQ., Chennai.
4.	Consultant (Palm Leaf-Decoding)	03	
5.	Consultant (Hindi)	01	
6.	Research Associate (Chemistry)	01	SCRI, Chennai (AMDRL)
7.	Research Associate (Biochemistry)	01	SRRI, Puducherry
8.	Research Associate (Bioinformatics)	01	CCRS, HQ., Chennai.
9.	Research Associate (Botany)	01	SMPGRC, Mettur Dam
10.	Research Associate (Siddha)	17	CCRS, HQ. - 10 SCRI, Chennai - 04 SRRI, Thiruvananthapuram - 02 SCRU, Palayamkottai - 01
11.	Research Associate (Botany)	01	SRRI, Thiruvananthapuram
12.	Research Associate (Life Sciences)	01	SMPGRC, Mettur Dam
13.	Project Scientist (Chemistry)	02	SCRI, Chennai & SRRI, Thiruvananthapuram
14.	Project Scientist (Botany)	05	SCRI, Chennai - 02 SRRI, Thiruvananthapuram - 01 SMPGRC, Mettur Dam - 01 & SCRU, Palayamkottai - 01
15.	Project Scientist (Biostatistics)	01	CCRS, HQ., Chennai
16.	Project Associate (Botany)	01	SCRI, Chennai.
17.	Office Assistant	08	CCRS, HQ., Chennai - 06 SCRI, Chennai - 01 & SRRI, Puducherry - 01

Last date of submission of application is **22.06.2026**. Separate applications shall be submitted for each position and to be superscribed on the envelope containing the application. **The date of Personal Interview will be notified only to the eligible candidates through the Council's website and email**. Further details regarding eligibility, educational qualifications, age, experience, remuneration, tenure of contract and other terms and conditions etc. be followed in the Council's website: **www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in**

Date: **31.05.2026** **Director General, CCRS.**

TOO EARLY TO CALL

Patidar not keen on judging the nature of the Ahmedabad pitch

VIJAY SONEJI

The Narendra Modi Stadium pitch has not been a batting paradise. In the seven IPL 2026 matches held at the venue, the team batting first has crossed the 200-run mark only twice. Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper Rajat Patidar said that he had not seen the pitch yet and that it was too early to predict a good score.

UNDECIDED

We'll take a look at Salt's condition and finalise the XI, says Patidar

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Phil Salt last turned out for RCB over a month ago, before an injury forced him to sit out. Salt is back with the RCB squad, leading to speculation that he might feature in the final. "He is doing drills and batting. But we have not decided if he will play. We'll take a look at his condition and decide," captain Rajat Patidar said.

RUN MACHINE

'Gill-Sai Sudharsan partnership has been flourishing for years now'

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Gujarat Titans Director of Cricket Vikram Solanki praised Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan for consistently delivering at the top. "It's been a good number of years that the partnership has been flourishing. I can only imagine the work that Gill has put in to get to where he is. Sai Sudharsan is no less," said Solanki.

HIGH PRAISE

I've not seen anyone bat the way Sooryavanshi does: Gill

R.V. MOORTHY

RR teenager Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has found fans even among his opponents. "I've not seen anyone bat the way he does. In this format, he is probably one of the best batters in the world. It is not just the hitting, but his biomechanics and hand speed, regardless of the opposition," GT captain Shubman Gill said.

GT takes on firm favourite RCB in final showdown

The clash offers a chance for the home team to exact revenge on the defending champion for the heavy loss in Qualifier 1; a lot will depend on the Gujarat side's opening pair Gill and Sai Sudharsan

IPL-19

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Big test: RCB batting coach Karthik will be hoping Padikkal gets going in the title decider. K.R. DEEPAK

Royal Challengers Bengaluru has looked the team to beat right from the early phase of IPL 2026. Gujarat Titans, by contrast, is a resilient unit which cannot be kept down for long. These two journeys now converge in Sunday's final at the Narendra Modi Stadium here.

RCB has been among the most complete sides in the competition. Its campaign has been defined by consistency, impressive squad depth and an ability to adapt to varying conditions.

A commanding 92-run win over GT in Qualifier 1 at Dharamshala just a few days ago only strengthened the sense that RCB may be unstoppable.

RCB's campaign has been defined by consistency, impressive squad depth and an ability to adapt to varying conditions
The crunch game will also see one of the tournament's most compelling individual contests — current superstar Gill versus the legend Kohli

Tenacious unit

GT's run, while less straightforward, has been no less impressive. The fighting spirit has been evident throughout – a trait seen three years ago as well, when the side lost to Chennai Super Kings in Qualifier 1 but still went on to reach the summit clash.

This year, a remarkable seven-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in Friday's Qualifier 2 sealed its spot in the showdown.

Shubman Gill's century stunned RR into submission, the captain showing the appetite to punch back immediately after a setback.

Gill and his men cannot ignore that heavy defeat in Qualifier 1, but they will believe the final offers a clean reset.

The big game will also see one of the tournament's most compelling individual contests – current superstar Gill versus the legend Virat Kohli.

With a century, four fifties and a tally of 600 runs at a strike rate close to 165, this campaign has again underlined Kohli's standing in the shortest format.

Gill, meanwhile, has become the centrepiece of GT's batting and leadership.

The winner of this duel could well shape the outcome of the match.

Vital phase

The PowerPlay could prove decisive. If the RCB pacers can dent GT with the new ball like they did at Dharamshala, the pressure could become overwhelming very quickly. The onus will be on Gill and Sai Sudharsan to weather the opening burst without retreating into a shell.

RCB would have relished the chance to play the final at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, where the home crowd and familiarity could have handed it a clear edge. Instead, the shift to Ahmedabad has flipped that advantage.

RCB, though, has one big advantage. Rajat Patidar's side has had more time to recover and prepare.

GT, on the other hand, is set to feature in two high-pressure games in the space of three days.

The title clash, however, has all the ingredients of a fitting finish.

Today's match

THE FINAL

RCB vs GUJARAT TITANS

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 9

RCB 5 | GT 4

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

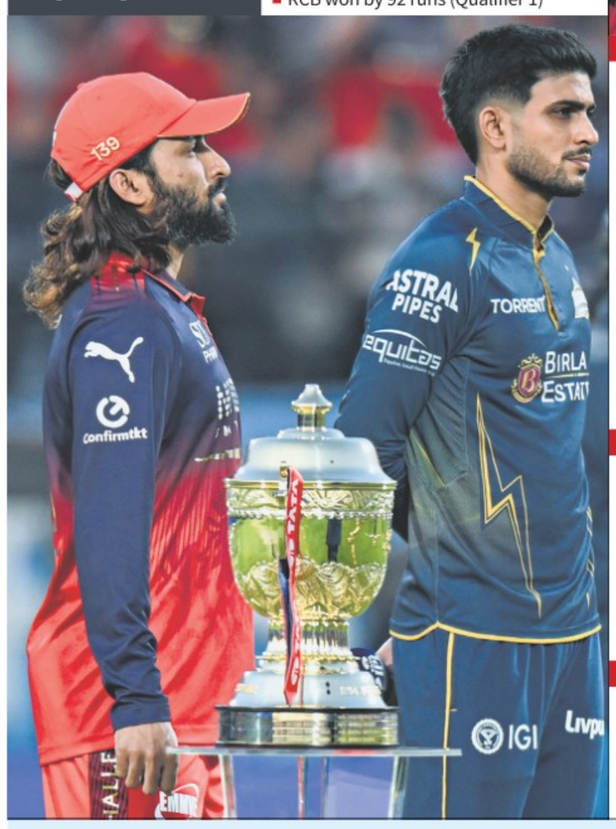
Retain or Regain?

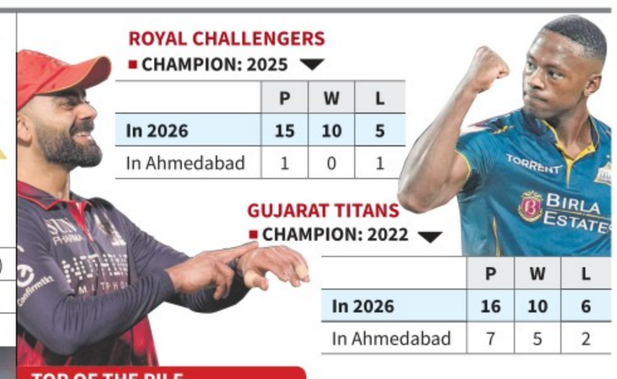
The red-hot Royal Challengers and resilient Titans, both eyeing their second IPL crown, square off in what promises to be an engrossing battle

H2H IN 2026

	PLAYED	RCB	GUJARAT TITANS
	3	2	1

- RCB won by five wickets (league stage)
- GT won by four wickets (league stage)
- RCB won by 92 runs (Qualifier 1)





ROYAL CHALLENGERS
■ CHAMPION: 2025

	P	W	L
In 2026	15	10	5
In Ahmedabad	1	0	1

GUJARAT TITANS
■ CHAMPION: 2022

	P	W	L
In 2026	16	10	6
In Ahmedabad	7	5	2

TOP OF THE PILE

BATTING

	Royal Challengers	Titans
Most runs	Kohli (600, 15 inns)	Gill (722, 15 inns)
Highest	Kohli (105 n.o.) vs. KKR	Gill (104) vs. RR
Most sixes	Patidar (41)	Gill (33)

BOWLING

Most wickets	Bhuvneshwar (26, 15 inns)	Rabada (28, 16 inns)
Best bowling	Hazlewood (4/12) vs. DC	Holder (4/24) vs. PBKS
Most dot balls	Bhuvneshwar (141)	Rabada (165)

DEFEND OR CHASE

	BATTING FIRST		BATTING SECOND	
	P	W	P	W
RCB	7	4	8	6
GT	6	4	10	6

■ The teams batting first have won on 10 occasions in the final while eight have crossed the finish line batting second.

SUMMIT CLASHES AT AHMEDABAD

2022	2023	2025
GT beat **RR** by **seven wickets**	**CSK** beat **GT** by **five wickets (DLS method)**	**RCB** beat **PBKS** by **six runs**

1 RCB's Patidar can become the first captain to win the title in his first two years as skipper

1 GT's Nehra is one step away from becoming the first Indian head coach to lift two trophies

3 The Bengaluru outfit has the opportunity to be the third team after CSK (2010, 2011) and MI (2019, 2020) to successfully defend the crown

3 Having won the trophy with KKR in 2024 and RCB the following year, Salt can complete a hat-trick of titles. Karn Sharma had bagged three back-to-back crowns between 2016 and 2018, that too with different teams (SRH, MI, CSK)

4 RCB or GT will become the fourth most successful franchise with two trophies. Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians have won five each and Kolkata Knight Riders three

8 Titans will look to break the eight-year-old record of the Qualifier 1 winner clinching the title

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN, G. PRASAD & S. SHRIVATHSAN

Patidar not dwelling on emulating Dhoni, Rohit

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

After coming into the Royal Challengers Bengaluru squad in 2022 as a replacement player for an injured Luvnith Sisodia, Rajat Patidar now stands one win away from joining M.S. Dhoni (2010, 2011) and Rohit Sharma (2019, 2020) as the only captains to have won back-to-back IPL titles.

Patidar. K.R. DEEPAK

Fearsome striker

As a batter and leader, Patidar's graph continues to grow. This season, the Madhya Pradesh cricketer has added another dimension to his game as a fearsome striker. He was at his aggressive best in an unbeaten 33-ball 93 which flattened Gujarat Titans in the Qualifier 1, taking his tournament strike-rate to an impressive 196.

On the eve of the IPL 2026 final here, Patidar was asked about his meteoric rise. Staying true to his modest demeanour, the RCB skipper sought to play it down.

"I've never thought about the captains who have won back-to-back titles, or whether I want to compete with someone or not," Patidar said here on Saturday.

"You said my journey has been a rollercoaster ride. I've never focused on that. I'm just focusing on what I can do before the final," he added.

> You cannot keep talking about 2025. You have to be in the present. We have to keep the mindset that we are here to win the title

The 32-year-old deflected pointed questions on whether he aspired to get picked for the Indian T20 side, stating that he was not thinking about it.

Patidar stressed on the importance of taking this final as a fresh challenge, rather than approaching it with the overconfidence of a defending champion.

Staying in the present

"You cannot keep talking about 2025. You have to be in the present. We have to keep the mindset that we are here to win the title, not defending anything that we have done in 2025," Patidar explained.

We know the pitch and ground: Gill on GT's home advantage

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

The shift in the IPL title match venue from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad was announced well before the two finalists were known. But as it turned out, the two teams most invested in this decision have made it to the marquee clash.

Luck favoured Gujarat Titans, which will now enjoy playing at home on Sunday.

"There are advantages, because there's a little bit of familiarity. There is familiarity when we play here. We know the wicket, we know the ground, we know the kind of cricket we need to play to win," GT captain Shubman Gill said ahead of the final.

Catches win matches

Perhaps alluding to the crucial catches dropped by his unit in recent matches, Gill stated that "the team that fields better is going to win the final".

The skipper has forged a formidable opening combination with Sai Sudharsan, a batter he rates highly. "To have the same intensity in all matches and be consistent in your preparation is not easy. Sai is very consistent in his routines, in his life outside of cricket. That is what makes him consistent on the field as well," Gill said.

Our backyard: Titans coach Nehra and captain Gill will aim to make best use of the familiarity factor. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

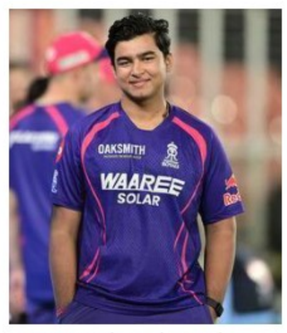
Sooryavanshi more than ready for India call-up: Sangakkara

Vivek Krishnan
NEW CHANDIGARH

For the duration of IPL 2026, Kumar Sangakkara, who fulfilled the dual responsibility of head coach and Director of Cricket for Rajasthan Royals, had a ringside view of Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's game.

Having observed the 15-year-old make another giant leap after the promise of his debut campaign in 2025, the former Sri Lanka skipper said Sooryavanshi was "more than ready" for an India call-up. The cherubic southpaw's next assignment is a 50-over tri-series for India-A in Sri Lanka from June 9 to 21. Once that concludes, there is an irresistible case for the teenager to be handed a senior T20I call-up.

"Yeah, I mean, you never know if anyone's ready until they play. But with everything Vaibhav has shown against some of the best bowlers in the world, I think he's more than ready to take on any challenge you throw at him. And I'm sure that he'll get that call-up very, very soon. He's batted with a lot of maturity," Sangakkara said after RR's defeat to Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2.



Sooryavanshi... a lot to cheer about. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Sooryavanshi's second IPL season ended with a mind-boggling tally of 776 runs.

On Friday, the Titans attack came up with a concerted short-ball ploy, but the youngster showed substance along with style in an innings of 96 off 47 balls. "He reads the game really well, and he's got no fear," Sangakkara noted.

INBRIEF

Meghalaya signs Host State Agreement for National Games

Meghalaya marked a defining moment in its sporting journey on Saturday with the celebration of two historic milestones – the inauguration of integrated multipurpose indoor hall at the J.N. Sports Complex, Shillong, and the signing of the Host State Agreement for the 39th National Games, Meghalaya 2027. The hall was inaugurated by Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Conrad K. Sangma, Meghalaya Chief Minister, in the presence of Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Raksha Khadse, and P.T. Usha, President, Indian Olympic Association (IOA), among others.

Manu, Samrat win 10m air pistol mixed team silver

Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana with 483.6 points won the 10m air pistol mixed team silver at the ISSF World Cup in Munich on Saturday. China's Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu claimed gold with 483.9, while Shen Yiyao and Bu Shuaihang, also from China, settled for bronze with 418.0.

Women wrestlers impress in u-17 Asian Championships

India's women wrestlers shone at the under-17 Asian Wrestling in Da Nang, Vietnam, securing a 100% podium finish with an impressive haul of 10 medals two gold, three silver and five bronze.

DYES Hassan triumphs in women's tournament

DYES Hassan edged out DYES Kudige 3-2 to win the Hockey Karnataka (under-16) women's tournament in Bengaluru.

The results: Final: DYES Hassan 3 (S.M. Saraswathi 4, M.D. Aradhya 21, G.H. Anushya 42) bt DYES Kudige 2 (B.S. Deechamma 10, 30).
Third-place match: Sports Authority of India, STC Madikeri 3 (N.R. Neelamma 2, Matti Yadula Mythili 30, Golla Sai Bhavya 40) bt Hockey Belgaum 0.

Nousheen's brace helps India pip Malaysia

Fifteen-year-old Nousheen Naz struck twice as India made a winning start, beating Malaysia 2-1 in Pool A of the under-18 women's Asia Cup hockey in Kakamigahara, Japan, on Saturday.

The result: India 2 (Nousheen 19, 28) bt Malaysia 1 (Azli 41).

ROUND-UP

FUCC (1) defeats Rajajinagar Cricketers

FUCC (1) beat Rajajinagar Cricketers by 84 runs in the KSCA senior women's T20 tournament.

The scores: Mount Joy 115/4 in 17 overs (A. Harshika 52) bt Modern 89/5 in 17 overs [Match was revised to 17 overs because of wet outfield].
Cavaliers 44/4 in 11 overs lost to Visweswarampuram (2) 45/1 in 7.2 overs [Match was revised to 11 overs because of wet outfield].
FUCC (1) 176/8 in 20 overs (S. Shubha 64) bt Rajajinagar Cricketers 92/9 in 20 overs (Ananya Hegde 3/7).
Bangalore SC 116/5 in 20 overs (Kushi Suryakanth 61) lost to SUCC (1) 117/1 in 14.2 overs (T. Nireeksha 55, Andrea Michelle Lobo 41).

Rovers shades Orientals

Rovers FC beat Oriental FC 2-0 in a Group-3 match of the BDFA C-division league championship.

Other results: Group-4: Netaji FC bt JP Sports FC 3-0; Konkan FC bt Nationals FC 1-0; **Group-5:** Hindu Socials FC bt Goans FC 5-3; East West FC bt NP Kempe Gowda FC 7-2.

LIVE TELECAST

French Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2.30 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 12 a.m. (Monday)
IPL (final): Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Anticlimactic: Vinesh, who started with a thumping win over Jyoti, ended up bowing out in the semifinals. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Vinesh's comeback dreams end, loses Asian Games trials

The star grappler, returning to competition after two years, loses to Meenakshi in 53kg semifinals; Dipanshee, Antim, Manisha, Mansi, Nisha, and Priya claim their spots for the mega event

WRESTLING

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

A wry smile, a wave of hand and a declaration – I will be back – loud enough to be heard by the top brass of Indian wrestling marked the end of Vinesh Phogat's comeback dreams here on Saturday.

But there was no lack of drama at the selection trials for the Asian Games at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. The star wrestler – returning to competition almost two years after the Paris Olympics heartbreak – lost 4-6 to Meenakshi Goyat in the 53kg category semifinals, an ill-tempered bout marred by repeated interference from both her supporters.

Vinesh started tentatively and conceded a point for passivity early on before Meenakshi earned a couple by pushing her out and taking control to race to a 4-1 lead. Vinesh then took her down for two points but Meenakshi effected one of her own to make it 6-3. A successful last-gasp challenge from Vinesh made it 6-4 but the scoreline made no difference to the result.

Meenakshi, however, was unable to repeat her performance in the final, losing 2-3 to Antim Panghal in another ugly bout, refusing to accept the decision or vacate the mat for a long time.

While it was expected to be a tough fight – Meenakshi won silver at the Asian Championships last month – it was the previous bout against the unheralded Nishu that really tested Vinesh, who was brought down in an open throw by the youngster for a four-pointer and almost pinned to the mat, only to be saved by the bell for the end of the first period.

The break helped Vinesh regroup and effect a four-pointer of her own and then a take down to edge ahead 6-5 before losing a challenge and conceding a point to be tied 6-6.

Nishu's challenge at the final hooter was unsuccessful as Vinesh's 7-6 victory came with a reality check, having won 7-1 against Jyoti in her opening bout. It was also the most ill-tempered bout of the day, stretching to almost 20 minutes with opposing groups getting into a tussle, Vinesh's husband Somvir, as coach, repeatedly coming onto the mat and frequent interruptions.

Final Asian Games squad:
50kg: Dipanshee; **53kg:** Antim Panghal; **57kg:** Manisha.
62kg: Mansi Ahlawat; **68kg:** Nisha Dahiya; **76kg:** Priya.

It was never a fair fight but I am proud of myself: Vinesh

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The competition was in six weight categories but there was no doubt as to where the spotlight was – Mat A at the IGI Stadium, the 53kg draw and Vinesh Phogat, hoping to qualify for the Asian Games later this year.

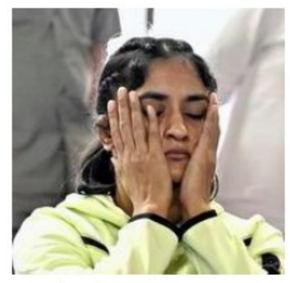
Vinesh fell short but the drama began much before her semifinal bout late in the evening. She was first handed a copy of the WFI circular that permitted her entry in the 50kg in the early hours of Saturday, followed by more than an hour of waiting and protests before finally being allowed to weigh in.

"It was never a fair fight. I had to wait for more than an hour for weigh-in and was allowed only after our lawyers spoke of going to the court again. They put all the strong competitors in my half of the draw. But one loss doesn't define anyone's future. I am back after giving birth 10 months ago. I still have the courage and strength and I will work hard and return to the mat," Vinesh said after her loss to Meenakshi in the semifinals.

The rancour between the federation and Vinesh had already given enough indications of an uneasy truce, mediated by the judiciary.

"We are fighting judges, federation, the whole system on one side. The decisions were not fair but when you fight an entire system, you are a winner. I want to be an inspiration for my son. The target now is (the) LA28 (Olympics). I am proud of my fight and with the Delhi HC observations, I am sure they will be forced to make policy changes regarding female wrestlers returning after maternity."

Meenakshi, meanwhile, simply shrugged off the win. "If I thought of pressure, I would never be able to compete. I simply blocked everything and only focused on doing the right things," she said.



Vinesh. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

> I had to wait for more than an hour for weigh-in and was allowed only after our lawyers spoke of going to the court again. They put all the strong competitors in my half of the draw

After action-packed start, players 'sail' through the rest day

NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

The action may be taking place on the board but there's a lot going on inside a chess player's mind.

After four days of competition at Norway Chess that had its share of thrills and spills, the players enjoyed a rest day, during which they got to take time off the 64 squares and be their own self. Ten of the 12 participants were split into two teams and took part in a friendly sailing contest on the Oslofjord on Friday, the first rest day.

It was also an occasion to celebrate the birthday of D. Gukesh, who turned 20 on Friday. The usually reticent World champion appeared to soak in the cheerful mood as he was actively involved in the competition around the fjord (a long, narrow channel or wide bodies of open water and lakes in Norway) with enthusiasm. He also tried his hand at navigating the speed boat.

Incidentally, after watching Gukesh handle the speed boat with aplomb, fellow Indian Grandmasters R. Praggnanandhaa and Divya Deshmukh hopped on to it to see how they would do.

Gukesh, who hasn't had the best of time at Norway Chess – having won only once in the four rounds – seemed to be in a fairly relaxed frame of mind, accepting birthday wishes from the other players. The 20-year-old, bracing for tougher challenges ahead, had admitted that his performances had dipped since winning the World title but said that he was ready to defend the crown against Javokhir Sindarov.

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Relishing new challenges: Gukesh celebrated his 20th birthday by actively involving in fun events. FLICKR/NORWAY CHESS

India wins three gold on day three of Asian under-20 athletics

Press Trust of India
HONG KONG

India clinched three gold medals to continue their strong performance and retain the second spot in the medals table at the end of the third and penultimate day of the Asian under-20 athletics championships here on Saturday.

Nikhil Chandrashekar (3000m steeplechase), Basant (high jump) and Shahnavaz Khan (long jump) swelled the Indian gold medal tally to seven.

Nikhil ran to victory in 9:25.44s for a personal best, while Shahnavaz cleared a distance of 7.84m for his win.

Compatriot Jithin Arjunan Raman Chandrasekaran won silver with a jump of 7.66m.

Basant cleared 2.20m to land the third gold of the day.

Bronze for Aarti

Aarti added a bronze to the tally with a time of 24.12s – a personal best – in the women's 200m.

Bhumika Sanjay Nehate finished a close fourth in 24.13s.

China leads the tally with 10 gold medals.

Top show: Nikhil (3000m steeplechase); Basant (high jump); Shahnavaz (long jump). X@AFIINDIA

Gulveer, first Indian to run a mile in sub-four minutes

Press Trust of India
CLEVELAND (USA)

Gulveer Singh became the first Indian to run a mile in less than four minutes, enroute to winning the title at the 24th Annual Music City Track Carnival on Saturday. The World Athletics Continental Tour Challenger event was organised at Lee University Cleveland Campus.

The 27-year-old, an Asian Games bronze medallist in 10,000m, clocked 3:55.63 seconds to win the men's 1 Mile Pro event.

He is also the first Indian runner to break the 13-minute barrier for 5,000m track race.

Christopher Knight, representing USA, was second in 3:59.72 and Tristan Trevino, also of USA, was third in 4:00.27.

Siege Storm and D'artagnan may fight out the finish

RACING

BENGALURU: Siege Storm and D'artagnan may fight out the finish of the Bangalore Turf Club Karnataka Juvenile Million (1,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (May 31).

False rails (width about 4.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ENDORSEMENT PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00 pm: 1. Asterion (1) Trevor 56, 2. Bartolino (3) Arvind K 56, 3. Duke Of Buckingham (5) A. Prakash 56, 4. Super Charm (2) Siddaraju 56, 5. Ashwa New York (4) Suraj 54.5 and 6. Digital Empress (6) Sandesh 54.5.
1. ASHWA NEW YORK,
2. DIGITAL EMPRESS

2 AUREOLE TIME PLATE (Div. II), 1,200m, rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Glaze (1) M. Rajesh K 60, 2. Pursuit Of Wealth (4) A. Ramu 60, 3. Khazana (3) Aleemuddin 59.5, 4. Whitney (9) Rayan 59.5, 5. Mega Success (2) Jagadeesh 59, 6. Meghann (6) Laxman S 59, 7. Amazing Storm (7) Shreyas S 58.5, 8. Mericle Beauty (8) Kiran Rai 58.5 and 9. N R I Gold (5) Vinod Shinde 55.
1. KHAZANA,
2. PURSUIT OF WEALTH,
3. GLAZE

3 WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY PLATE (Div. II), 1,300m, rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Night Raider (1) Pavan 60, 2. Assurances (5) Suraj 57, 3. Vibrant Queen (3) L.A. Rozario 54, 4. Steely Challenge (4) Sai Kiran 53, 5. Lucero (7) Jagadeesh 51.5, 6. Shining Pearl (2) Vinod Shinde 51.5, 7. Treasure Queen (8) A. Asbar 51.5, 8. Estefania (6) Shreyas S 50.5 and 9. Honeypot (9) M. Rajesh K 50.5.
1. ASSURANCES, 2. NIGHT RIDER,
3. VIBRANT QUEEN

4 S.G. MADHUKAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Forseti (5) Faizan 62, 2. Alfonsine (7) Trevor 61.5, 3. Circle Of Dreams (6) Akshay K 57.5, 4. Disciple (8) Antony 57.5, 5. Invincible (1) Kiran Rai 55, 6. Sunshine (2) Suraj 55, 7. Master Way (4) Asirvatham 54, 8. Basilica (3) Sandesh 53, 9. Scarlette Lady (9) Vishal Bunde 53 and 10. Zayyan (10) Yash 52.
1. ZAYYAN, 2. ALFONSINE,
3. CIRCLE OF DREAMS

5 BANGALORE TURF CLUB KARNATAKA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. D'artagnan (1) G. Vivek 57, 2. Rambo (3) Sandesh 54.5, 3. Buckingham (6) Trevor 54, 4. Shining Ways (4) Suraj 52.5, 5. Siege Storm (2) Akshay K 52.5 and 6. Madante (5) A. Prakash 51.
1. SIEGE STORM,
2. D'ARTAGNAN

6 AUREOLE TIME PLATE (Div. I), 1,200m, rated 00 to 25, 4-30: 1. Dasadyu (3) Bhawani S 62.5, 2. Steffen (1) S. Sachin 62, 3. Valencia (6) Kiran Rai 61.5, 4. Agrima (4) Aditya W 61, 5. Carter (7) Md. Talib 61, 6. Supernal (2) Vishal Bunde 61, 7. Visons Dream (5) Vishal 61 and 8. White Secret (8) G. Vivek 60.
1. AGRIMA, 2. STEFFEN,
3. WHITE SECRET

7 WORLD NO-TOBACCO DAY PLATE (Div. I), 1,300m, rated 20 to 45, 5-00: 1. Agera (5) R. Pradeep 62, 2. El Rey (9) Suraj 61, 3. Valiant Stream (3) Akshay K 60.5, 4. Darrington (6) Pavan 60, 5. Oxytocin (7) Kiran Rai 59.5, 6. Rocking Star (8) L.A. Rozario 58, 7. Agrador (1) Trevor 56.5, 8. CR Seven (4) M. Rajesh K 51 and 9. Chinky Pinky (2) Shreyas S 50.5.
1. VALIANT STREAM, 2. EL REY,
3. DARRINGTON
Day's best: **ASHWA NEW YORK**
Double: **KHAZANA - SIEGE STORM**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Miracle Star claims the Chettinad Stud Plate

BENGALURU: James Mckeown trained Miracle Star (Suraj up) won the Chettinad Stud Plate (1,600m), the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (May 30). The winner is owned by Radiant Blood Stock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mrs. Sharmila Padmanabhan. Trainer Prasanna Kumar won three races on the day.

THE RESULTS

1. UDHAGAMANDALAM PLATE (1,200M): A GREAT BUZZ (Pavan) 1, Perfect Dream (Sandesh) 2, Evolvita (Darshan) 3 and Haniel (Arul) 4. Not run: Bhagya. 1-3/4, 3-1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m 15.47s. Rs. 58 (w), 20 and 11 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 49, FP: 171, Q: 65, Trinella: 1,740/799, Exacta: 3,624/477. Favourite: Perfect Dream.
Owners: Mr. Saleem A. Jasdanwalla, Mr. Deepak S. Suryavanshi, Mr. J. Ramesh & M/s. Ajaad Stud and Livestock (OPC) Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

2. CHETTINAD STUD PLATE (1,600M): MIRACLE STAR (Suraj) 1, Promiseofthefuture (Neeraj) 2, Star Glory (Saurav Rawat) 3 and Golden Thunder (Antony) 4. 4, 2 and 3/4. 1m 40.47s. Rs. 11 (w), 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 14, THP: 26, FP: 15, Q: 16, Trinella: 43/41, Exacta: 39/11. Favourite: Miracle Star.
Owner: Radiant Blood Stock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mrs. Sharmila Padmanabhan. Trainer: James Mckeown.

3. ELITE FORCE PLATE (1,400M): KNOTTY EMPEROR (G. Vivek) 1, Friedrich (Akshay K) 2, Rampage (Sandesh) 3 and The Archer (Neeraj) 4. Not run: Super Charm. 7-1/2, 2-1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m 27.66s. Rs. 21 (w), 13, 19 and 18 (p), SHP: 73, THP: 39, FP: 153, Q: 147, Trinella: 674/190, Exacta: 1,036/406. Favourite: Knotty Emperor.
Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. Ashok Ranpise, Mr. M.N. Nambiar, Mr. D. Sanjeev Basapa, Mr. Gautam Basapa, Mr. Srikanth Badruka, Mr. Dharmesh Mehta, Mr. Rajkumar S, Dr. N. Swaroop Kumar & Mr. K. Balamukunda Das'. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

4. MARILINGAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200M): SPLENDID DREAM (Akshay K) 1, See The Light (Sandesh) 2, Ziva (Asirvatham) 3 and Refined Aggression (Yash) 4. Not run: Victoria Doresaani. 1/2, 3-3/4 and Lnk. 1m 14.19s. Rs. 71 (w), 18, 13 and 31 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 44, FP: 777, Q: 184, Trinella: 5,058/2,787, Exacta: 12,462/4,450. Favourite: Refined Aggression.
Owner: M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5. SIR. M. VISVESVARAYA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): MONEY BAGS (Antony) 1, Efficacy (Suraj) 2, Rodney (Pavan) 3 and Lux Aeterna (Aditya W) 4. 7-1/4, 3-3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m 25.66s. Rs. 15 (w), 13 and 10 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 24, FP: 48, Q: 24, Trinella: 48/18, Exacta: 68/44. Favourite: Money Bags.
Owners: Capt. Jamshed J. Appoo, Mr. K. Manoj Kumar, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal & Mr. J. Ramesh. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. ROMANTIC DANCE PLATE (1,400M): PRINCE OF WALES (Antony) 1, Alamgir (Suraj) 2, Lena (A. Asbar) 3 and Bulletproof (Sandesh) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/4 and Nose. 1m 27.99s. Rs. 51 (w), 14, 15 and 14 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 46, FP: 129, Q: 64, Trinella: 481/227, Exacta: 727/260. Favourite: Bulletproof.
Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr. Rajendran. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

7. PRINCE KHARTOUM PLATE (1,200M): STRAVINSKY (Suraj) 1, Corinthian (Sandesh) 2, Windcleaver (Mukesh) 3 and Flash (Rayan) 4. Not run: Southern Force. 3-3/4, 3-1/4 and Nose. 1m 15.31s. Rs. 21 (w), 13, 16 and 32 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 88, FP: 77, Q: 43, Trinella: 1,402/854, Exacta: 4,194/1,112. Favourite: Stravinsky.
Owner: Mr. Anil K. Joseph. Trainer: V. Narayana Gowda.
Jackpot: Rs. 7,990; Runner up: 853; Mini Jackpot: 3,262; Treble (i): 301; (ii): 218.

Stunning assault: Kemp's cameo swung the momentum in England's favour. GETTY IMAGES

England women counterpunch

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
BRISTOL

England beat India by 26 runs in the second T20I to level the three-match series 1-1 here on Saturday.

Chasing 169, the Women in Blue could only score 142 for nine in 20 overs, with Yastika Bhatia top-scoring (33 retired out, 36b, 5x4). Opener Smriti Mandhana made 32 (25b, 5x4). For England, Freya Kemp produced a superb all-round show as she grabbed two wickets after her stunning unbeaten 39 (13b, 4x4, 2x6).

Earlier, left-arm spinner Shree Charani impressed with a three-wicket haul, but a stunning late assault from Kemp powered England to 168 for five. India struck at regular intervals to keep England under check. However, Kemp swung the momentum dramatically in England's favour in the last two overs as it plundered 39 runs.

On a dry surface, England made a cautious start, scoring only six runs in the first two overs before Sophia Dunkley broke the shackles with a six over long-on off Arundhati Reddy.

But India struck inside the PowerPlay when rookie Nandani Sharma induced an edge from Dunkley (10) that was collected by wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh.

England managed only 35 for one in the PowerPlay. Returning from maternity leave, Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Amy Jones then attempted to rebuild with a brisk 36-run stand. But Shree Charani made the breakthrough by dismissing Wyatt-Hodge for 29 off 25 balls. Alice Capsey looked promising during her 28-run knock, but Shreyanka Patil ended her stay as England continued to lose wickets.

Just when India appeared to have complete control, Kemp turned the match on its head.

The scores: England 168/5 in 20 overs (Freya Kemp 39 n.o., Shree Charani 3/25) bt India 142/9 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 32, Yastika Bhatia 33, Lauren Bell 2/33, Charlotte Dean 2/20, Freya Kemp 2/15).
Toss: England; **PoM:** Kemp.

PSG retains crown with shootout win

Enrique's men rally after conceding an early goal; heartbreak for Arsenal as Eze and Gabriel miss from the spot for the English champion

Pure joy: PSG players set off after their triumph. REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Reuters
BUDAPEST

Making it a habit: Enrique captured his third Champions League title as manager. REUTERS

Paris Saint-Germain retained its Champions League title with a penalty shootout victory over Arsenal after a 1-1 draw in a cagey final at the Puskas Arena on Saturday. Arsenal's Gabriel blazed his penalty over the crossbar to give PSG a 4-3 victory on spot kicks.

The French champion made the worst possible start after Kai Havertz fired Arsenal into the lead in the sixth minute, lashing a rising shot past PSG goalkeeper Matvey Safonov. Havertz, who was preferred to Viktor Gyokeres, netted from an acute angle for his second goal in a Champions League title decider.

It looked like PSG would find no way through the meanest defence in Europe but Ousmane Dembele levelled from the penalty spot in the 65th minute after a foul by Cristhian Mosquera on Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

A scrappy period of extra time could not separate the sides.

PSG held its nerve in the shootout to become the second club after Real Madrid to win the trophy in successive seasons in the Champions League era.

The result: PSG 1 (Dembele 65-pen) drew with Arsenal 1 (Havertz 6) aet.
PSG won 4-3 on penalties.

Satwik and Chirag shock World champs

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stunned top seeds and the World No. 1 pair of Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of Korea in straight games to storm into the final of the Singapore Open Super 750 badminton tournament, here on Saturday.

The fourth seed prevailed over reigning World champions Ho and Jae 21-19, 21-18 in a semifinal that lasted 52 minutes.

It was the maiden victory for the Indians over the Korean duo.

"Even when we were down, we kept backing each other and eventually we knew they would crack at some point if we stuck to our plans," Chirag said.

The Indians will take on Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri, who beat China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang 23-21, 21-4, in the final.

Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto lost 16-21, 21-17, 13-21 to Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara in the mixed doubles last-four clash.

Satwik and Chirag bounced back to make it to the title clash. BWF/BADMINTON PHOTO

Potapova downs Gauff; Sabalenka meets Osaka

Creating a flutter: Potapova fought back to dethrone Gauff. AFP

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Reigning French Open champion Coco Gauff lost in three sets to Austrian Anastasia Potapova as her Roland-Garros title defence ended here on Saturday.

The fourth seed was defeated 4-6, 7-6(1), 6-4 by the 28th seed in the third round after being a break up in the deciding set.

"I think I've had a few (big wins) before, but I'd put this in the top three for sure," said Potapova after a third win over Gauff.

Potapova will next meet Russian 22nd seed Anna Kalinskaya.

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka and four-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka set up a blockbuster last-16 meeting. Sabalenka beat Australia's Daria Kasatkina 6-0, 7-5 in 76 minutes.

After racing through the first set, Sabalenka went an early break down to her 53rd-ranked opponent before battling back.

Sabalenka and Osaka, both 28, have won two Australian Opens and two US Opens each. The 16th-seeded Japanese battled past American Iva Jovic 7-6 (5), 6-7(3), 6-4.

THE RESULTS

Third round: Men: Manuel Cerundolo (Arg) bt Landaluce (Esp) 6-4, 6-7(7), 7-6(4), 6-7(4), 7-6 (10-8); 10-Cobolli (Ita) bt 18-Tien (USA) 6-2, 6-2, 6-3; Svajda (USA) bt 25-Francisco Cerundolo (Arg) 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3; 2-Zverev (Ger) bt Halys (Fra) 6-4, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.
Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Kasatkina (Aus) 6-0, 7-5; 16-Osaka (Jpn) bt 17-Jovic (USA) 7-6(5), 6-7(3), 6-4; 25-Shnaider (Rus) bt Oliynykova (Ukr) 7-5, 6-1; 28-Potapova (Aut) bt 4-Gauff (USA) 4-6, 7-6(1), 6-4; 22-Kalinskaya (Rus) bt Osorio (Col) 6-3, 0-6, 6-2; Parry (Fra) bt 6-Anisimova (USA) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (10-3).
Fallen seeds: Men: 18-Tien, 25-Francisco Cerundolo;
Women: 4-Gauff, 6-Anisimova, 17-Jovic.

Sunday's Picks

MEN	
2-Zverev vs. De Jong	
15-Ruud vs. **28**-Fonseca	
11-Rublev vs. **26**-Mensik	
27-Jodar vs. Carreno Busta	
WOMEN	
3-Swiatek vs. **15**-Kostyuk	
7-Svitolina vs. **11**-Bencic	
8-Andreeva vs. Teichmann	
18-Cirstea vs. Wang	

SNAPSHOTS

Davies in Canada squad
Alphonso Davies and Jonathan David were the star names in Canada's FIFA World Cup squad revealed on Friday.
The squad: Goalkeepers: Dayne St Clair, Maxime Crepeau, Owen Goodman; **Defenders:** Alistair Johnston, Derek Cornelius, Richie Laryea, Niko Sigur, Joel Waterman, Luc de Fougerolles, Moise Bombito, Alphonso Davies, Alfie Jones.
Midfielders: Stephen Eustaquio, Ismael Kone, Tajon Buchanan, Mathieu Choiniere, Ali Ahmed, Nathan Saliba, Liam Millar, Marcelo Flores, Jacob Shaffelburg, Jonathan Osorio;
Attackers: Jonathan David, Cyle Larin, Tani Oluwaseyi, and Promise David.

Indian women lose to Australia, share series
PERTH: The Indian women's hockey team lost 2-3 against Australia to share the friendly series 2-2 on Saturday.
The result: Australia 3 (Abby Wilson 42, Olivia Downes 44, Courtney Schonell 58) bt India 2 (Navneet Kaur 2, Deepika Soreng 23).

Minhas does the star turn as Pakistan goes one up

Agence France-Presse
RAWALPINDI

Arafat Minhas became the first Pakistan bowler to take five wickets on his ODI debut as the home team outplayed Australia by five wickets in the first match here on Saturday.

The 21-year-old finished with figures of five for 32 while Abrar Ahmed grabbed two for 44 to end the Australian innings for 200 in 44.1 overs after the host opted to bowl.

Babar Azam and Ghazi Ghori scored half-centuries as Pakistan romped home with more than seven overs to spare.

The scores: Australia 200 in 44.1 overs (Matthew Short 55, Matt Renshaw 61, Arafat Minhas 5/32) lost to Pakistan 202/5 in 42.3 overs (Babar Azam 69, Ghazi Ghori 65).
Toss: Pakistan. **PoM:** Minhas.

India loses to Zimbabwe

Sports Bureau

India lost 0-1 to Zimbabwe in the third-place match of the Unity Cup football in London on Saturday.

Zimbabwe won, thanks to Prince Dube's penalty in the 33rd minute.

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SREE MAHALAKSHMYAI NAMAHA
SREE CHANDRASEKARA GURUBHYO NAMAHA

APPEAL

The MAHASWAMI OF KANCHI ordained this Public Charitable Trust in 1986 for providing financial aid to Archakas who live in poor conditions, upholding our religious and cultural heritage in ancient temples in rural areas. Many of them do not have any means of sustenance and we should deem it our duty to provide them with minimal financial aid to ensure that they continue to perform their important role in the rural communities.

MAHA PERIYAVA had instructed that the Trust should seek donations primarily from individual devotees; and provide financial assistance to these Archakas from the income derived from investing the donations. He had further desired that those with gross income of over Rs. 4,000/- per month could contribute their one month's gross income.

The Trust currently provides a monthly honorarium to 432 poor Archakas, (156 Poojaries, 125 Bhattacharyas and 151 Sivacharyas) spread over rural Tamil Nadu. The Trust also has a Group Life Insurance Policy for the benefit of eligible Archakas.

We earnestly request all the devotees to donate liberally for this noble cause, keeping in mind **MAHA PERIYAVA's** desire. By His Grace and the generous contribution from his devotees, it has been possible to enhance the monthly honorarium progressively to **Rs. 2,800/- (Rupees Two Thousand Eight Hundred) per month.** However, with the increasing number of beneficiaries and reduction in the interest rates, it is necessary to enhance the Corpus fund significantly to maintain the current level of financial aid to the poor Archakas.

Online Donations (via Payment Gateway) can be made at www.kmawt.com.
Also, Crossed Cheque or Demand Draft payable at Chennai drawn in favour of **'KACHCHI MOODOOR ARCHAKAS WELFARE TRUST'** can be sent to the Trust office. Please do mention that the donation is towards **CORPUS FUND** in the covering letter, and do include Donor's Name, PAN number, Address, Cell/Phone Number, and Email-Id (if available).

31.05.2026

S. RAGHUNATHAN
Advocate, Chennai
Chairman

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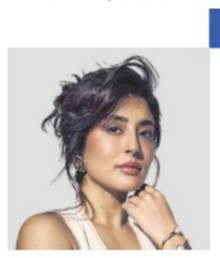

Kritika Kamra,
Actor

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